

異世界はスマートフォンとともに。

冬原パトラ

illustration ■ 兎塚エイジ

7



In a Different World with a Smartphone

Isekai wa Smartphone to Tomoni

Book 7

by Fuyuhara Patora

[Novel Updates](#)

Translator: [Raising the Dead](#)

Epub : [TrolloWN/LN EPUB](#)

Illustrations







「うはー、赤いね！ 悪くない」

「高機動用フレームギア、電騎士だ」
ドラクーン

エンデは僕にホイッとプレハルトを渡すと、
さっそく竜騎士へとよじ登り、
胸部ハッチを開けて中へ乗り込んだ。



異世界はスマートフォンとともに。

メカ設定資料集

■竜騎士《ドラグーン》



開発者：レジナ・バビロン
管理責任者：？
搭乗者：エンデ
武装：晶材製の小太刀が二本。

整備責任者：？
所属：エンデ所有
全高：17.8m 重量：6.8t 乗員人数：1人

対フレイズ用決戦兵器、フレームギアの一体。高機動用の機体となっており、全体的な装甲は軽い素材で造られている。そのため打たれ弱い。踵の車輪を下ろした「高機動モード」に移行することにより、ハイスピードで戦場を駆けることが可能。そのために各部に多くのバーニアが取り付けられている。防御力を犠牲にし、機動性を重視しているため、戦闘は敵の攻撃をかわしながら斬り込む、一撃離脱《ヒットアンドアウェイ》のスタイル。かなりピーキーな機体であり、乗り手を選ぶ。

Arc 20: Calamity Comes

Chapter 155: Assassin, and Self-destructing

I have gathered Six Babylons namely "Garden", "Workshop", "Alchemy Building", "Hangar", "Tower", and "Rampart".

Among the 15 mini-robots working in "Rampart" I have decided to transfer 10 of them to "Hangar" and have them help Rosetta and Monica. It will be good if their workload lessens with this.

From the dressing room dedicated to the trial products received from Zanakku-san, I have said "You may select and wear what you like" to Liora and Noel. Liora then wore a jumper blazer, while Noel chose a jersey. Why did you choose those? Well, it's fine though since both of them are pleased with it.

Since today is about time for the guild branch in the castle town to be completed, I decide to make an inspection tour.

For the guild's appearance which is almost finished, the addition of small ornaments and interior works are being done to it. It's a building that's very greatly and wonderfully done. If there's anything worth mentioning, it looks like people became considerably passionate for this since it's a guild branch governed by a king who was originally an adventurer.

That's all and fine, but I expect that the adventurers won't be coming that often. Magic beasts and including thieves don't come in here. At most, I am thinking that the requests will come from a routine category.

(ED: Touya already cleared his territory. Isn't it more logical to think that demon beasts will now come from outside his territory?)

Well, since it is possible to go to either Regulus or Belfast within a day's trip, I think it can't be helped that there won't be requests from the subjugation category at all.

Since the minor works like those of the interior of the guild have been finished, Zamuza from an ogre tribe was then helping at the bar next door. Only pillars were built so there is still physical work remaining. I guess it's impossible to do an interior work with that large build of his.

"Hmm ? "

Suddenly, I noticed the figure of Sakura watching the construction works of the bar. Beside her are Sango and Kokuyou floating as if they're swimming.

"Ora~, It is the Lord"

".....King-sama"

Sakura hasn't recovered her memories yet. But since I cannot just throw her out, I have asked her to stay in the castle as a guest for the mean time.

Contrary to her seemingly quiet appearance, she is considerably active and goes out somewhere like this every day. I have decided to ask someone among my summoned beasts to accompany her when she goes out since I will be troubled if she wanders around various places on her own accord.

"What are you doing in this place ? "

"She was eating at "Moon Read" until some time ago, and while we were returning, this child suddenly stopped here and didn't move"

Kokuyou answers my question and not Sakura.

"You say she ate at "Moon Read". What about the money?"

"The shop manager said that it is fine to put it on the Lord's tab"

Oi. That's careless even for Mika-san..... Although, the "Moon Read" over here has tentatively become a shop managed by the state. So I guess, is that allowed? Don't tell me the others are also eating there and putting it on my tab as well.

"And, what is Sakura doing now?"

"That's....."

Sakura is pointing at the place at the place where Zamuza from the ogre tribe is carrying timber while looking happy. What is it about him?

"He is a demonkin..... Yet no one pays any attention to it. How unusual"

I see. I guess that's what this is all about. It's definitely unusual for demokins and humans to be working together without being discriminated. Generally, when one speaks of demonkins, humans become vigilant against them and they tend to be isolated simply because they are being afraid of.

In reality, I also have not seen any place where demonkins and humans are laughing or meeting together with the exception of this country. I have seen instances of them drinking by themselves in the corners of bars though.

"You see, no one will be discriminated against in this country even if he is a demonkin. Of course, travelers and people like them coming from other countries might watch out for those demonkins nevertheless. Among our knight order as well, there are five people who are demonkin including the one over here"

".....This country is changing based on how the King-sama is changing. But, this is a nice country. Everyone in this country is living and helping each other out"

Although it doesn't necessarily mean that I am being praised, I still feel kinda happy.

Well, since it is a small country, it is natural that unless people help each other, they won't be able to make a living.

Afterwards, we go to look around the agricultural land being created on the east side of the country while taking Sakura along. Laqshe of Aruraune is showing her spirits towards the field work as usual. She is also a demonkin.

"What are you raising over here?"

"Daikon and Turnip. I think we should be able to harvest them soon. They are delicious when they are pickled."

Laqshe smiles while saying this. Apparently, the method of pickling is peculiar to Ishen, but it's spreading even in this country like it is normal thanks to the citizens coming from Ishen. It's apt to become such a trend by any means.

There also doesn't seem to be any problem with the paddy fields created as an experiment, so I want to somehow develop the reach to some extent until the spring comes. As expected, I want to eat an appetizing rice as well.

After this comes miso and natto or something else like soybeans, that is. Tofu and green soybeans are good too. I look forward to it because it appears we will start raising them when spring comes.

After bidding farewell to Laqshe, we start to return by the road towards the castle.

I then felt a strange sign after walking for a short while. There is no one around me, Sakura, Sango and Kokuyou.

"Lord"

"I know"

While interrupting what Sango was saying, I secretly deploy "Shield". After that, we were attacked by an arrow shot from the top of the nearby tree.

"ッ ! ? "

The arrow is stopped and repelled by the invisible shield despite Sakura having her breath taken away by the surprise. When I looked towards the crown of the tree where the arrow came from, there was a person clad in black covering mask similar to the actors from classical chinese operas.

That's a mask made in an unusual color. It is extremely suspicious. As I walk towards this fellow, three black clothed men wearing similar masks appeared from the ground. There were several presences that I have felt, but have you guys been buried all this time?

They are carrying short curved swords with their hands. When I took a careful look at those swords, I noticed that the edges were getting wet for some reason. It is likely that it has been smeared with poison as well.

There is no mistake. Those guys are assassins.

".....Where is the giant soldier?"

"Giant soldier ? Are you talking about the Frame Gear ? "

"Answer the question"

"I have no obligation to answer your question. From which country did you guys come from?"

I ask the three people in front of me, but there is no answer. And yet, I would have ended it just with this if they had answered obediently.

Then, I touched each of the three people's shoulders after quickly approaching them.

"Gravity"

"Gufuuu !? "

I make them grovel with the weight magic. Seeing this spectacle, the fourth person jumps from the top of the tree and attempts to run away.

"Slip"

"Kugaa !?"

The fourth person turns over as he falls onto the ground, and hits the back of his head. Aah~, I suppose the timing was bad.

After deciding to leave that one, for now, I face towards the three people groveling in front of me and approach them in order to take off the masks. Show me your faces, you rascals.

"Noo ! !"

I collapse on my back after having my arm immediately drawn by Sakura. In the next moment, the masks of three people explodes.

"Wha~.....!"

The three people become motionless as the explosion scatters pieces of flash and smoke. Well that is, they will already be apparitions if they are still moving after having their heads entirely blown off, alright.

Was that a suicide bombing to make it impossible to draw out information should one of them be caught? At some historical plays of the old times, there were scenes where the ninja bit its tongue when he was caught by an enemy, but..... Well, that being said, even if one bites his tongue off, it doesn't seemly mean that one will certainly die, so suicide bombing seems to be more reliable.....

When I look at the fellow tumbling over with "Slip", his figure was not there anymore. A kunai-looking weapon tied to some rope is sticking out from a nearby tree. It is possible to escape from "Slip" applied on a ground when using it.

I began searching for the "mask", but I haven't found anything. Probably, he has already discarded the mask and made an escape. I guess I didn't understand his nature. It's necessary to take measures before it becomes troublesome. This challenge thrown at me, I will accept it.

=====Scene-
Change=====

"I didn't find anything from the bodies of the three people that would clarify their identities. One person is unaccounted for"

Vice-commander Nicola-san makes his report at the conference room. Although I didn't want this to become an important 《おおごと》matter very much, the king of the country was attacked so I can't say anything in this matter as well. The ones gathered at the conference room are the top brass of the knight order, Prime Minister Kousaka-san and Tsubaki-san from intelligence division.

"So ? Are they people who know something about the youngster?"
"I think..... Yes. However, I pretty much have no doubts that their aim was the Frame Gear"
"In that case, all other countries fall under suspicion, I suppose."

Baba-jii-san folds his arms, says "I see" and leans against the chair. Well, it is not like I don't understand him.

The Frame Gear can certainly be seen as something any country would want after seeing it as a weapon. Those guys perhaps tried to capture and confine me and then have me expose the whereabouts of the Frame Gear. They would make me unconscious by shooting through my leg with bows and arrows and take me to a place where I wouldn't be able to move, or something along those lines. Since it seems that the poison smeared on those short swords was paralytic by nature.

"However, for a country from a western alliance to do that, the potentiality is low, don't you agree? There is also a possibility for an influential person to run wildly, but it is not like it includes the whole country. If they do something like this, it won't be as foolish as not understanding what it will turn into"

It is exactly as Kousaka-san says. If by chance, their plan is discovered, the other allied countries won't become their companions. That's an act of ruining their own countries.

Furthermore, those guys called it "The Giant Soldier" or something. They likely don't know about the name "Frame Gear". That means, it is fitting to

consider this assassination to be an act of a country I haven't involved myself with much.

As I am thinking about it, Tsubaki-san raises her hand quietly.

"There is one thing, I am concerned with. His Majesty said that the assassins were wearing masks, but....."

"Be it at present times or at olden times, the people from intelligence agencies or assassin guilds who are wearing masks are numerous. There is nothing strange with that, right?"

"Eeh. In that case, wouldn't one understand something from that mask itself.....?"

Even if you say it like that, those masks have been completely blasted without even having a chance of becoming an evidence. Surely, it is like Yamagata-ossan says. Lapis-san and Cecil-san who were part of a secret unit "Espion" from Belfast were disguising themselves with white masks. Do the characteristics of a country show from their masks?

"What kind of masks were those?"

"It has the kind of color similar to an actor from a classical chinese opera...."

"Classical Chinese Opera ? "

Commander Rain-san inclines her head. Her rabbit ears are inclining as well. I guess they won't understand it like that.

I invoke "Drawing" after having taken out a paper from above the desk in the room. Suddenly, the mask of the guys who attacked me was drawn to the surface with its real depiction.

"Although it's late for me to say this, but His Majesty surely is convenient, right.....?"

The Vice-Commander Norun-san whisperingly mutters so, but you should call it "His Majesty's magic" that is.....

"This is that mask. Do you know anything about it?"

Everyone was gazing at the picture, and before long Tsubaki-san started to talk.

"I don't have any proof, but.... It can resemble the cultural color of Yuuron. If I am not mistaken, there is a rumor going around that an intelligence agency called "Kurau" exists in that country."

(TL: クラウ – can literally mean “to eat, to consume”)

"Yuuron ? "

"Heavenly Empire Yuuron. It is a country to the west from Ishen. They have waged wars several times against Ishen; They are also governed the Heavenly King"

Heavenly Empire Yuuron. Is it a neighboring country after crossing the sea of Ishen? It's quite far. How dare they to come here from that distant place.

Well, there is no proof yet. I wonder if it will be better to be cautious just in case. It doesn't seem likely that they have given up on this.

In the meantime, I have the defences strengthened and everyone to be cautious and pay attention to suspicious individuals. If we assume that their aim is the Frame Gear, we must not let them get their hands on it. The only ways to get to Babylon floating in the skies are my "Gate" or the short distance teleportation of Shizuka's group as Babylon Numbers.

Surely, they might just barely make it if they can jump into the sky, but that scenario has been the case just until the other day. More than just obtaining "Rampart", it already has become impossible to directly invade from outside.

It's fine should they directly aim at me, but I cannot throw away the possibility for the people around me to be aimed at. I should make it clear to them and have them to be very careful.

Well, should that happen, there won't be any forgiveness. After discovering the one pulling the strings, I will make him wish that he would rather be dead.
(TL: when, when, when does Touya goes full berserk mode and destroys some country.....)

It's definitely not a decent matter to make those guys self-destruct due to the fear of leaking someone's identity.

.... That reminds me, why does Sakura know about the those guys' masks exploding?

Could it be that Sakura is a member of an intelligence agency from Yuuron or something? No way. The place I discovered her in was Ishen and I had also confirmed that she is not a bad person with Yumina's magic eye just in case.

However, I wonder if the magic eye shows its effects to a person who lost his or her memories. For example, I wonder if the magic eye will judge a scoundrel as "Evil" if he loses his memories and becomes a completely different person. Can it see through the essence of a person until it's already just a portion and even if the person himself might not be conscious of it.

I feel a tinge of anxiety towards the time when Sakura's memories return. But, I must believe in my own instinct here saying that Sakura is not a bad person.

Chapter 156: Absorption Magic, and Elder Sister's Visit

"Then, I am coming"

"Yup ~yo~"

At the training ground field, Lindsey turned a Mithril made cane fitted with a magic stone toward me. Among the red, blue and yellow magic stones fitted into the tip of the cane, the red magic stone shines brightly.

"O Fire come forth, Red Stone, Ignis Fire"

A fireball as small as a baseball ball comes flying towards me from the tip of the cane. It's a beginner magic from the fire attribute.

Gazing at it, I raised my magical power and then invoked a non-attribute magic I had memorized.

"Absorb"

The fireball disappears like a mist before it hits me. There is no damage at all.

One more shot, and a fireball came flying to me. But this one vanishes like a mist the same way as the previous one. Fumu, I guess it has some continuation time. It consumes a considerable amount of magical power, but because it absorbs the magic that was shot and makes it my own magic power, the consumption amount is somehow conserved to some extent though.

"Please cast an advanced magic this time"

"I understand"

Lindsey readies up her cane again.

"O Fire come forth, Pillar of Purgatory Fire, Inferno Fire"

"Absorb"

Three massive seething pillars of fire head toward me from three directions. However, even those completely disappeared as soon as they entered within a 2 meters radius around me.

Yup? My magical power certainly recovered, and it is about the same amount as before. Is the amount recovered fixed regardless of the amount of magic

power the other party uses?

(TL: it means no matter spell power strength, the MP return will be same; example, if spell cost 100MP or 1000 MP, he will recover 10 in either case)

Magic is "Negated", turned back into magic power, and part of it is "Absorbed".

This has the same effect as the "Imbibe Demon's bracelet" from the time of Empire coup d'état. It seems I can make a similar artifact if I use "Enchant".

I thought it would be quite useful if I made armor that can disable magic, but after trying to ask Lindsey, she said it would be totally useless since the magic powers that is absorbed can cause a state of "Magic Sickness" due to it being different.

Apparently, the rejection will occur if a person who don't have the magic power of fire attribute absorbs fire magic. However, this has nothing to do with someone like me who has all attributes. I was told that the "Imbibe Demon's bracelet" is superior in that regard.

Lindsey and Yumina each possess three attributes. In Rin's case, she can probably absorb all attributes except non-attribute magic. She is possessor of six attributes. She was able to transfer magic power with "Transfer". But even though the magic itself is a non-attribute magic, it's possible because the magic transferred is still not yet dyed by any attribute.

(TLC: It is either a typo or intentional. Judging by #150, Rin doesn't possess darkness attribute)

"Say, isn't this meaningless since it does not invoke by itself if you're caught off guard?"

"About how much is the effective range?"

"Umm, from 2 up to 10 meters, I guess? Huh? Conversely speaking, wouldn't the opponent not be able to activate magic if he is caught within that range?"

I used "Absorb" while leaving Lindsey by my side. Hereafter I had her use magic, but it was only invoked for a moment and disappeared immediately. I see. So is that also another way of using this? Of course, when Lindsey left the range, she could invoke her magic normally.

I think this magic has to be the one which completely silences magic of the

opponents. "Silence" only prevents sounds from being heard so that they can't chant the spell. With "Taboo", I can seal the words in advance if I know the magic that they will use. Their invocation would be hindered, but it can't be used in real fights.

No, I can probably use it if I know about the favorite magic of the enemy though. For example, if I make "Boost" a 《Taboo》 while fighting Elsie, this will probably become quite advantageous for me.

In any case, the magic is unusable if the opponent is Fureizu.

For now, the experiment is concluded. I thanked Lindsey, and the moment I was about to return to the castle, a telepathic communication from Kohaku came.

《My Lord, a visitor came to the castle, but.....》

《Visitor? Who?》

《Well, the visitor called herself Lord's elder sister》

《Haa?》

What elder sister are you talking about? I do not have any elder sister. Or rather, I don't have any siblings. I have cousins from the elder sister's of my mother, and there is an elder brother of my father's who went through shotgun wedding and divorce, but there is no one in this world.

《What kind of person is that woman?》

《Yes. She has pink hair, about five years older than Lord as I can s.....e-w-what!》

《What-what, Kohaku-chan, what are you doing ~noyo? Ah~, are you doing a telepathic communication ~noyo? Let me talk with Touya-kun too ~noyo. Moshi-mo~shi, can you hear me ~noyo?》

A voice of a young woman who completely amuses herself came through mixed in with Kohaku's telepathic communication. The voice was familiar. Idiot w.....what are you doing here!?

Opening "Gate", I bring along Lindsey and and rush to the castle at full speed.

"I am Touya-kun's elder sister ~noo, Mochizuki Karen ~nanoyo"

(TL: she say name in Kanji and Karen in kanji is translated Flower Love)

"Karen-san?"

She greets everyone as if nothing has happened. What does this person say!?
No, she isn't a human, all right.

I approach her quietly and talk in a small voice.

"..... Why you are here, Love Goddess!?"

"It is different ~noyo. It's Karen ~nanoyo. Ah~, calling me Onee-chan would be fine, you know ~noyo? Or rather, call me Onee-chan ~noyo"

This doesn't answer my question!

"I am happy I meet you after a long time ~noyo. Gyo~ ~nanoyo~"

"UWAPPU!?"



She suddenly hugged me. Wa— everyone is watching! I gave a fleeting glance towards Yumina and the girls, but everybody was looking here with heartwarming eyes. They probably think it is the reunion of the elder sister and younger brother after a long time. Yae is somehow crying though. Why?

"Then, honorable sister-in-law-sama《義姉》, we will take our leave. We will present a magnificent supper today so please anticipate it"

"Ara~ I am looking forward to it ~noyo"

Was that a consideration of giving a brother and a sister privacy? Everyone left the room one by one. The door then closed leaving only the Love Goddess and me.

"And? What exactly is this?! Why have you come down here on earth!?"

"Should I have not come down? ~noyo?"

"Coming down particularly is fine ~yo! Well, I don't understand it though! Why as someone like my elder sister.....?"

"Ah~ I just hit upon this Idea ~nanoyo"

Love Goddess sits down on the sofa while shrilly laughing. I somehow felt exhausted and sat down as well. It is no good..... this person, no, this goddess, is the type I am not good with.

"In the end, why did you came down?"

"Ho~to say it simply, it's to capture someone ~nanoyo"

"Capture someone?"

"That someone is a god further below down than us, low-class gods. Those are called subordinates gods. This subordinate god came down and escaped into this world ~noyo. I came down to catch this god ~noyo"

A subordinate god? Is it a god further lower than low-class gods? According to what I have heard, it seems gods apparently also have ranks, and it looks like subordinate gods are placed even further under the gods of attributes. Are you saying that this fellow run away and came down to this world?

"However, you said he escaped. Is that guy guilty with some crime in the world of the gods by chance?"

"There is no crime. Therefore I don't understand ~no ~yo. Why did he come down to this world? Speaking of crimes, coming to this world without World God's permission is crime by itself, but there won't be problems if it is just descending to this world ~noyo. However, it is not allowed to interfere in this world by using subordinate god's power ~noyo. This is what concerns me ~noyo"

In a broad sense, I think you are intervening sufficiently enough as well though. Certainly, wasn't I induced for an encounter where I saw Yumina and girls changing their clothes before!? By you!

"It is fine for us ~noyo. If you are going to compare it to something, it's similar to a driver who has a legal driver's license ~noyo. But the subordinate god, not only does he not have a temporary license, but he is a child driver who is not allowed in highway without an instructor being with him ~nanoyo. It is pretty dangerous ~nanoyo"

I kinda understand, and at the same time, kinda don't. Well, so is it like saying that 'It is a bad thing not to have a license'.

"Then please quickly go and catch that guy before it becomes something troublesome"

"That's was my plan ~noyo. However, I couldn't feel his divinity ever since I came down to this world~noyo. He probably transformed himself into something that exists in this world ~noyo"

"Transformed?"

"He probably transformed himself into something like a person, an animal or, possibly, a sacred treasure or a sacred tree and blended in with this world ~noyo. I can't sense him as long as he doesn't cancels that ~noyo"

Oh, my! Then it has already turned into a troublesome situation, mind you.

It will certainly become troublesome if that guy starts doing something using his god powers. Although he is further below a low-class god, he is still a god even if a temporary one. He shouldn't get away without consequences. Furthermore, he is concealing his godly characteristics. And not knowing his purpose is causing further eerie.

"What do you plan to do in order to find that guy?"

"I will know where in the world that subordinate god is if he uses his divine powers above some threshold ~noyo. Afterwards, his transformation will break once we throw our divine power at him ~noyo"

"Our?"

OiOi, don't tell me that another low-class god also has come down to this world? Didn't he mention someone like the art god, the sword god, agriculture

god exist as well? That carefree Kami-sama!

"What are you talking about ~noyo? I am speaking about you Touya-kun ~noyo. You have divine power mixed in as well as your magic power~noyo. In the first place, I arrived here by following this you know ~noyo?"

"Haa!?"

Wait a minute! Is the change in my body that Kami-sama has talked about is happening? I am not aware of it though.....

"In any case, we can't move as long as the other side doesn't make a move ~noyo. And as I say this, I will be indebted to you for a while ~noyo!"

"Eh!? Here!?"

Seriously!? Well, until that guy is caught, I will definitely not feel relieved, so I get that this might be good. But waaa~y more than that, I have an unbearable feeling this person is carrying troubles all over her though!

"There are no problems for an elder sister to live with her younger brother ~noyo"

"Nah. Elder sister, you say? Earlier, you love goddess said 'I hit upon this Idea'....."

When I try to refute her, her cheeks puff and she glares at me. How old are you? No. Let's stay silent since it feels like I would see hell to hear the answer.

"Onee-chan, ~nanoyo. Call me that ~noyo"

"Well, but however..."

"If you don't call me that, I will tell Yumina and the girls the whole story when they consult me with Love issues ~noyo"

"Pardon me for that, Onee-chan"

Dam~n it. Is this what they have called the power of god.....?

Still, since calling her "Onee-chan" is embarrassing, I have asked her to compromise with "Nee-san". The Love Goddess.....er, Karen-Onee-san still looked dissatisfied, but it seems she accepted it for now.

Or rather, I wonder if this person can do something like catching the subordinate god. I somehow feel like it's a complete misassignment though.....

That day, dinner became a very grand dinner. Wow, what a fighting spirit Clair-san put into making it.

But with the love consultation that started with the dinner party, the male camp, especially myself, suddenly felt uncomfortable. Well, that person is a pro in that field. Or rather, she is a "God" though as the name suggests!

Yumina and the girls throw questions one after the other.

"Touya-kun faces everyone with gentleness unconsciously ~noyo. If it's a woman, it's a cruel thing in a certain sense ~noyo. It can be seen as a suggestive behavior, and there are also a lot of times where they don't think of it at all ~noyo. It won't be good if they misunderstand it ~noyo"

"T-then doesn't that mean that he does not think of us like that as well.....?"
"Uun, it is the opposite ~noyo. He considers you all to be very dear to him ~noyo. Therefore, there is where you can draw the line ~noyo. It's you who have push more from here on out ~noyo"

"Are you saying to attack more aggressively?"

"Do it with moderation, ~nanoyo? He will draw back if you attack too much ~noyo. Touya-kun is a shy person ~nanoyo"

"H-how much specifically should be fine? Sister-in-law— sama 《義姉》?"

"First comes skinship ~nanoyo. How about starting with hugging, kissing and holding hands ~nanoyo. Do them until they are imprinted as if something natural ~noyo. When shyness disappears with this, you will be able to behave naturally ~noyo. Aren't you guys having quite the hard time because your basics in love are weak ~noyo?"

"H-how about something I-like an a-art of s-seduction?"

"Too much lewdness will produce the opposite results ~nanoyo. It will be similar to having a fatigue because there is no stimulation, so do it moderately ~nanoyo. Start with something like make the skirt short..... Ah, just do it only in front of Touya-kun ~nanoyo? If another person sees your pantsu, he will definitely sulk ~noyo.

"I see. I got enlightened"

Please stop already! Please! What kind of a shameful play is this?! Or rather, this is no longer a romantic consultation, isn't it!? Didn't it turn to an exposure story of myself!?

Even Rene in the female camp became deeply interested and listened attentively, while the male camp gave out painful "You have it tough" lukewarm eyes towards me.

It can't be helped that my face flushed. I want to escape! A horrible person in a whole lot of different ways has become my elder sister.

Chapter 157: The Yuuron Invasion, and The Quint Village

"Yuuron has started a war?"

"Yes. They had declared war on neighboring country, the Kingdom of Hanok, and began their invasion"

I took my smartphone out of my pocket during Tsubaki-san's report and projected the map of the area around Yuuron in the air.



The Kingdom of Hanok is... uh, to the west from Yuuron, and is also adjacent to the Regulus Empire by a river. It is a long country horizontally-wise.

"Search Display. Mark Yuuron's forces as Red, and Hanok's forces as Blue"

"Acknowledged. Displaying"

Oh, it managed to display them. And, I can distinguish their appearance just like that.

The outward appearance of my search magic turns out to be a considerable intelligence gathering tool. Similarly to the masked attackers from the other day, it naturally can't be used when someone can throw away his mask and change his garments. Although, it is possible to do an ordinary search of the village, town or somewhere else.

Even the masks themselves could not be searched as they had probably been completely destroyed. Well, it had to be done since those masks held the possibility of exposing the identities.

According to the map, there are two encampments being settled in the place where the enemy has considerably entered on Hanok's side. There is yet another Yuuron army moving towards those camps of Yuuron. But I wonder, is that a supply unit?

It seems the war situation is in a state where Yuuron advances forward as the superior side.

"What is the cause of the war?"

"According to the excuse given by Yuuron side, it goes like this: "The lands of Hanok were originally territories of Yuuron. The immigrants shamelessly remained there even after coming earlier and went as far as creating a country on their own accord, so we are only trying to recapture it"..... That's how they are twisting it"

".....What kind of story is that ? "

"That's just as how they are saying it. They claim that they from Heavenly Empire of Yuuron have been continuing to prosper ceaselessly even during the age of the ancient civilization while having a 7000-year-old history. It seems that this history has been handed down from generation to generation as oral tradition"

A 7000-year-old history? That's amazing. As far as I remember, even Egypt only has a 5000-year-old history, right?

I see. So they are trying to regain the lands of their ancestors. Although I can understand that, there is already a different country in that place and people are living there. I cannot help but feel that "In spite of them leaving it behind for some time, what are they saying now after so long?". But still...

However, what do you mean by "oral tradition"? I got curious a bit, so I call out to Shizuka who is present in the room and try to ask in a low voice.

"During the age of ancient civilization 5000 years ago, did a country called "Yuuron" already exist?"

"No. I haven't heard of such a country. In the first place, the habitable places for humans had disappeared with the grand invasion of the Fureizu during that time"

Arara. The 7000-year-old history of Yuuron is quite fake-ish, I guess. That history is created and changed in accordance with the circumstances of some influential individuals, but that's how things usually happen.

Now that it comes to this, it feels like the story about the lands of Hanok originally belonging to the dominion of Yuuron is questionable as well. No, it doesn't necessarily mean that what the people of Yuuron have said probably contain lies. Things become like this when people are being taught that kind of

history for so many thousands of year, you know.

"It seems that somehow the start of the war from the side of Yuuron was induced by adding a false pretext one way or another. During this several years, Hanok has discovered new reefs of orichalcum and mithril, and their economy is rising by yielding those resources. Those resources are probably the purpose of this war"

Is that a totally aggressive war? Even when looking from the point of view of Yuuron, it's certainly not the matter of the resources being a mountain of treasure, right?

Is this also the cause of the attack aimed at the Frame Gear just the other day? Trampling down the opponent with an overwhelming power after making investments into war..... Was it about them trying to acquire advantage with the technology stolen from the other country?

"U~n, something like a war is the first for me. What should happen with this?"
"Yuuron has the advantage when talking about military strength. If the war advances as it is, Hanok might perish. Since ore mines are present, it might be possible to arrange war potential to some extent using those as a source of funds. But regrettably, the difference in numbers is too big"

If Hanok is destroyed, will Yuuron come till the neighboring Regulus? That's definitely not a laughing matter.

If the attackers the other day are indeed from Yuuron, I won't hold any good sentiment towards Yuuron albeit it is not yet definitely confirmed. I guess that's prejudice.

"Speaking about the Kingdom of Hanok, does it associate with Regulus Empire?"

"I think that association is not to the extent of having an alliance, but they are friendly towards each other. Concerning the war currently happening, it seems like the Empire won't actively intervene. But they might provide an assistance in forms of provisions or weapons and so forth"

Fumu. If events go that way, the war will be prolonged more or less, right? Even so, the possibility that Yuuron will win is high when regarding the resolution of the war.

Well, it is war concerning another country. It has nothing to do with us. should I been thinking like that, it would surely be easier though.

A lot of people will die most likely..... I don't have the disposition to be affected by a cheap-looking humanism, but even so, I also cannot explain why the death of some people I have nothing to do with bother me so much.

But that's simply a hero's desire or rather, that's no more than what a hypocrite would feel as well.

That reminds me, Jii-chan who died told me that "Being hypocrite is very good! But do not become just a frivolous bystander! If you are just looking, then you are no different than a monkey!" as well.

.....Fumu. I don't want to become a monkey.

"By the way, I recall that there are some people in our household's knight order whose origin is that of Yuuron or Hanok, right?"

"I think there is none from Yuuron. I believe there certainly is one person coming from Hanok"

"Can you summon this person here? I want to speak with him for a bit"

"I understand"

Tsubaki-san goes out of the room. If his origin is Hanok, then he might have parents and siblings living in his hometown. It might be better to summon them here if the place they live in is close to the battlefield.

=====Scene Change=====

"I am Paolo, a member of the knight order!"

The summoned knight kneels on his place and lowers his head. He is a youth with short chestnut hair. I have seen him several times. If I remember correctly, he is a person whose movements are generally quick-witted even though he doesn't have that much skill with the sword. He is a person whom the Vice-Commander Nicola-san is pleased with since he also works with seriousness.

He was originally an adventurer apparently, and after seeing the recruitment for our household's knight order, he came here to sign up.

"Paolo-san, I hear that you are coming from the Hanok Kingdom. Where is

your hometown located?"

"Ha.....? Ah, Yes. It is Quint Village at the eastern end, but what does that....."

Quint village? After summoning the map, I display the village.

That's bad..... Isn't the army of Yuuron drawing close? Is it their plan to make the village their base after gaining total control over it? Despite them aiming the royal capital of Hanok, this village is considerably separated from the highway. But apparently, the one facing that way is a different unit besides their main force. I wonder if they have planned to make a pincer attack or something else.

Although they are from an enemy nation, it is unlikely for there to be massive killings, but..... There is still no mistake that food will probably be collected or something. Though I don't know whether it will be brought out quietly or will they forcibly dispossess it.

"Ano~... What on earth is.....?"

Paolo-san looks at me who is glaring at the projected map with an anxious expression. While switching his sight between me and the map, he confirms the location where his hometown is located.

"Although the news have not yet been announced..... Yuuron has invaded Hanok"

"What did you just say?!"

Paolo-san reflectively stands up. The emotions of surprise, impatience and anxiety are clinging to his face.

"This is Quint village from Hanok, and those red lights are the Yuuron army. They will most likely arrive nearby the village by tomorrow, but....."

"Such a....."

Paolo-san gazes at the light of the map in blank amazement.

"I think that as long as Yuuron army won't be opposed by the villagers, it won't turn into something cruel, but..... "

"..... No. I dare say what most likely will happen is that all men among the villagers will be killed and women will be made into playthings and turned into slaves....."

"Wha..... ! "

Oi~oi, even if it is a joke, they are soldiers of a country, right? In that case, it won't make them any different from a band of thieves. Are they doing something like that?

"When the Yuuron army invades an enemy nation, the soldiers receive permission for pillaging. It's also fine for the weapons and armor obtained from enemy soldiers, the money and women to be treated as their own. It seems that the morale of the soldiers are high because of this, and they undisputedly abide the rules even during a severe invasion"

What the heck is with that? The locals will definitely resent them should they do something like that. In cases of invasions, the land will eventually become theirs. And yet, what will they do after inviting such resentment?

"Up to 20 years ago, there was a small country called "Zaram" in between Hanok and Yuuron, but this country was destroyed by Yuuron. It is said that there was also a cruel pillaging at that time"

I doubt there is a need to go that far how much of a war it may be.

According to what Tsubaki-san have said, there seems to be a strict class system at Yuuron between a person of native-birth and not so much. In other words, there is a world of difference in treatment for the people from invaded countries.

Is there slavery in Yuuron as well just like in the Sandora Kingdom? Apparently, there is nothing similar to a "Subordination Collar", but they place a tattoo to denote who belongs to whom.

"It is likely that Quint village will be trampled down in the same way as Zaram..... Kuu~..... Your Majesty! I beg you, would Your Majesty please save Quint village in any way with your power!?"

Paolo-san kneels once again and makes a petition with a bow.

"Okay"

"I understand again and again the rudeness of this request. But still, I beg of you! To give your honorable consideration in any way..... !..... ha? "

Paolo-san absent-mindedly raises his face.

"What's with that look? I've said "Okay". In the first place, having this talk is the reason why Paolo-san was summoned"

Originally, those who came here from Hanok should have a family living there. There was a plan to propose an evacuation even if it just included the families of those affected members of the Knight Order. I couldn't imagine that this dangerous situation would reach the village itself in any way.

"I don't know whether they will be able to believe me even if I go there and explain the situation to them. I ask you to go together with me to Quint village after this, but will that be fine?"

"Ye~, Yes ! With pleasure!"

I receive the memory about Quint village from Paolo-san whose spirit rises up with "Recall" magic. We then transfer using "Gate".

For the time being, the three people: I, Paolo-san and Tsubaki-san jumped to Quint village.

Before my eyes there was spreading a scenery of indeed small village, the vicinity was wrapped with an idyllic peaceful atmosphere.

"Are you certain that is Quint village?"

"Ye~, yes. It is the village I have been raised in. That transfer magic..... is amazing.... to be able to transfer at once....."

Although Paolo-san makes a dumbfounded expression, he also makes a relieved expression towards his birthplace still being safe.

A youth, who could indeed be called a farmer, called out to us that were looking around restlessly beside the village entrance from the back.

"Paolo? Is that you, Paolo?"

"Are you.... Lento? It has been a while!"

Paolo-san runs towards the young farmer. It seems like they are acquainted. Or perhaps, they might be friends.

"What's with you and that appearance. From which dying person have you swiped something like that?"

"Idiot. This is the armor of the Knight Order of the Brunhild Dukedom. I(俺) didn't steal it! Nowadays, I(俺) am definitely a knight!"

"Eeeh~ ! ? "

Paolo-san proudly displays his mithril armor shining in silver. His tone has become that of familiarity, probably because the other party is his friend. He has changed from "Me (私)" to "Me (俺)".

(TL: he switched from general pronoun "watashi" towards a boyish "ore" version of "I")

"That's because since olden days you have only been fast at running away. Are you being valued due to that? "

"Well, that might be so. O~to, this is not a place for such talk! Do you know that Yuuron and Hanok have started a war !?"

The face of the farmer called Lento who was overflowed with delight until some time ago clouded at once towards Paolo-san's words.

"Aah, everyone is frightened, you know. They think that it will be alright since we are quite separated from the highway, but should the royal capital fall and Yuuron settles in, we won't be able to continue living the same as before....."

"It is not about the royal capital! The army of Yuuron is coming in the direction of this village exactly right now! They will already be here by tomorrow!"

"What are you saying..... !? That can't be!? There is no reason for them to attack a village this small! There is neither money nor provisions to that extent, and yet....."

As I've thought. The army that's coming here is a detached force. It can probably be expected that they are doing some strategic movements. While the main forces are glaring at each other on the highway, they are instead going around. Is it something like that?

"In any case, bring us to village headman. His Majesty will help this village "

"His Majesty? Whom do you mean?"

"The one who has come here is His Majesty The Sovereign King of the Brunhild Dukedom!"

"Oh~, greetings"

I am being introduced by Paolo-san with exaggerated gestures. But since it

was sudden, the smart words for nobility didn't come out. I did just a slight nod.

As the farmer Lento blinks in surprise, he looks with worried eyes at his friend who has come to the village after a long time.

"Paolo..... Are you, alright?"

As I have thought. They wouldn't believe me. I considered whether I should seriously make a crown for a moment.

Chapter 158: Grand moving, and Great Wall

After that, we have somehow received Lento-san's agreement and decided to have him guide us to village headman. Well, I guess the fact that he didn't believe us couldn't be helped.

Basically, the outfit of adventurers are clothes that are easy to move in when they go on a trip. Well, there is also that attitude wherein they are not good with gorgeous clothes. How can they go out in such a shameful form?

Anyway. We met with village headman and had a conversation, but he still couldn't believe us. Not something like that I am a King-sama or anything, but he couldn't believe that the army of Yuuron is coming close to this village.

I then made the village headman float with [Levitation] and flew towards the place with [Fly] while taking him along.

As we look from the skies, he properly understands that the army of Yuuron is facing the direction of the village. There is quite a lot of them. Are there around 5000 or so?

After seeing this scene, the village headman shivers while creaking whether it's because he realized that the village might be attacked soon, or because he is simply afraid of high places.

We descend at once on the ground and I send the village headman to the village with [Gate]. After requesting him to persuade the other villagers, I use "Fly" once again and fly around the surrounding areas.

As I expand the map and make observations, I've noticed the main force on the opposite side in addition to the guys who are going here and another detached force behind the main force. I think that the other detached over there is most likely the supply unit, but that's quite a lot of them included into this.

Speaking of the Army of Hanok on the other hand, their forces are non-existent with the exception of those colliding with the main force of Yuuron. When I expand the map far away, a different military force is visible behind

them. Those are reinforcements coming in very urgently from the royal capital. But, they will only arrive the day after tomorrow with that speed. I guess they are holding the front line till then.....

Now then, what can be done about that? I guess a just cause or something is necessary for making an intervention into the war of a foreign country. Naturally, I would like for Yuuron army to politely return, but it won't become a fundamental solution. I am sure they will come again.

If it was in the case of Brunhild, I would be allowed to interfere without reservation, but..... N?

That's right. This is also the way, I guess. I descend on the ground at once and open [Gate] to the place of His Majesty The Emperor of the Regulus Empire. Even if I suddenly appear before the King of Hanok, he hasn't met me before. I will have His Majesty The Emperor introduce me to the King.

Since after I received the backing of His Majesty The Emperor of Regulus, The King of Hanok accepted my proposal. At any rate, the Kingdom of Hanok will completely become the part of Yuuron with the way things are going. He has given his decision by saying "If that's how it is".

Good. There won't be any problems with the proper signature of the King himself. After me taking the certificate His Majesty The Emperor of Regulus and I go out of the castle of Hanok.

"However, you really have come up with something unthinkable....."
"In the end, it will be only temporary. I will dispose of it properly after the safety is guaranteed"

While revealing his voice that sounds amazed, His Majesty The Emperor of Regulus is shown the fleeting certificate complete with the seal of the country and signed by the King of Hanok.

"Well, there is no need to worry about this war as well since Touya-dono has

gone out of his way. We are also grateful for having this matter ending with us only sending relief supplies"

Well, I don't know whether it will go smoothly though. In any case, shall I give it a go then since there's also no need to be reserved?

"No need to take shelter..... what do you mean by that?"

"That's because every soldier of Yuuron will be driven out from Hanok"

I show the certificate received from the King of Hanok to Paolo-san who has been waiting at the village. Paolo-san opens his eyes wide as he reads the article even while not quite understanding the contents.

"Tha~, that~, is that really true?"

"That's the truth. There is the sign or the King of Hanok, isn't it? The seal of the country has been stamped as well."

Intensely peeking from the side, Tsubaki-san's eyes go round.

"It's good to have the approval of the King of Hanok, alright..... But anyhow, the country will be seized by Yuuron with the way things are going as I understand, in that case..... "

Tsubaki-san mutters in a state like she does and doesn't grasp it at the same time. Comprehend it already.

"Now then. Tsubaki-san, you will return to the castle and convey this matter to Kousaka-san and everyone from the knight order in advance since I will be driving away the soldiers of Yuuron that have been creeping into Hanok"

"Drive away, you say....."

Ignoring the dumbfounded Paolo-san that have been assigned as a protector of the village just in case, I send Tsubaki-san to Brunhild with [Gate].

As for me, I dash through the sky at once with [Fly], and finally arrive at the imperial capital of Yuuron, Shanghai (TL: シェンハイ), after a few moments.

In accordance with how I judged it during the time the masked individuals attacked, there were asian-sque streets around somehow. I wonder, is that huge building the royal palace?

There is beaten gold applied here and there on the scarlet tiled roof and whitened walls. Furthermore, there were some golden made statues that looked like animals installed into the roof and pillars. That's definitely gaudy. How do I say this? The royal palace seems to be an incarnation of one's conspicuousness.

I wonder if it has been made with the taxes..... If this was in Japan, it would be hated by everyone. It maybe my imagination, but I feel that there is a decline when one leaves the premises of the capital.

Well, I don't care anymore. Shall I return them here for the time being?

"Map Display. Show everyone from the army of Yuuron present in the territory of Hanok"

[Acknowledged. Displaying on the map]

With a "po-po-po-po-po" sound, the red light denotes the Yuuron army within the dominion of Hanok.

"Multiple. Target Lock-on"

[Acknowledged. Lock-on is completed]

The whole Yuuron army starts to be locked-on and that completes the aiming.

"Invoke [Gate] under the feet of the whole Yuuron army"

[Acknowledged. Invoking]

The red lights within the dominion of Hanok disappear one by one. And then, the soldiers of Yuuron appear one by one inside the royal palace below me, and the royal palace becomes panicked. Everyone will be returned to you, Your Majesty the Heavenly King.

As I make sure that every last one of the red light disappears, I go through [Gate] and come out quietly at the border between Hanok and Yuuron. Now then, after this will be the real deal, or it should be so.

"Wha~, what is this !?"

I hear such a voice from below me. Well, I guess they should be surprised. After being returned to as far as back to their own capital without also understanding the reason of what happened all of a sudden, they saw a huge wall soaring high at the national border after they tried invading Hanok once more. That said, it has also taken them ten days to come here though.

What's more, the flag fluttering above those castle walls was not the elk of the Kingdom of Hanok, but the war maiden of our Brunhild.

The man riding a horse, who apparently is the General of Yuuron, raises his voice from below the walls to me who have appeared next to that flag.

"What is the meaning of this, hey! ?"

[To the gentlemen of the Army of Yuuron, I appreciate your efforts marching this far. But, from here on out, this portion is the dominion of our Brunhild. Any advancement further on won't be allowed]

Facing the army of Yuuron which is being not at not understanding the meaning, I floated the magnified projection of the one certificate before those guys.

I floated the magnified projection of the certificate while facing the Yuuron army that can't understand the meaning of what's happening.

"Wha~, what's that!? Such a..... such matter is..... !"

It was a certificate stating the transfer by the Kingdom of Hanok to Brunhild of a territory only 1 kilometer in size at the border between Hanok and Yuuron. In other words, the one that is currently coming into contact with Yuuron is not Hanok, but an enclave of Brunhild.

So if the Yuuron army wants to invade Hanok, they have no choice but to pass through here. But as far as Brunhild is concerned, we don't plan on allowing them to pass.

[By the way, I will say this in advance, but this wall is stretching throughout

the entire border with Yuuron]

That's right. What has been made during merely six days with the power of [Workshop] and earth magic is the Great Wall of China of another world. Of course, the height of the wall is more than original though. Its area is the territory of 1 kilometer running along all the way through the national border. I wonder if it isn't wider than the Brunhild mainland by any chance.

"Heey, we will destroy and climb over such a wall! The army! Charge ! "

By the order of one General, the whole Yuuron army faces the wall and starts marching. Orya? They are really attacking. Although it's just me saying this but, come on. Even when you start invading because it's a land of the foreign country, you should at least enquire with His Majesty The Heavenly King, you know. Or, you just can't believe me, can't you? Well, that's fine nevertheless.

The soldiers of the Yuuron army that started invading the dominion of Brunhild finally arrive at the wall. And the moment they try to start climbing that wall, the soldiers are suddenly sucked up into the ground and vanish.

"Wha~ ! ? "

After that, the other soldiers vanish too when they touch the wall one by one.

The march immediately stops due to them being surprised at the sudden disappearance of the soldiers.

When they touch the wall, [Gate] is invoked under their feet, and they are sent automatically to the capital of Yuuron. Moreover, they are transported right into the royal palace. Well, I have no reason to explain it to them.

Continuing on, the soldiers turn towards me and start shooting with bows and arrows, but those are also blown off high in the sky with wind attribute magic applied on the entirety of the wall. By the way, it's only reacting to the arrows pointed this way, so there won't be any reaction when arrows are fired from up here.

[Aah, for your information, you better not unleash magic or something at this wall since it will be returned to your guys' royal capital]

I give them a warning just in case due to the magicians among army raising

their canes overhead. Being surprised by my words, the magicians slowly lower their canes. I don't know whether they believe my words or it is something else, but it seems like they have no intention to try it out.

Well, that's only the truth. It reacts to magic by turning the surface of the wall into a [Gate] opening. The destination is naturally the capital of Yuuron.

[Then, It should be fine to regard this as an act of aggression towards our country if things go further than this, right?]

When I snap my fingers, the Frame Gears "Chevalier" start descending one by one from a [Gate] opened in the sky. After making grand earth tremors and as all ten units have descended before the walls, two black knights "Night Baron" as well as one white knight "Shining Count" descend last.

Our household's vice-commanders are riding the black knights and the commander Rain-san is riding the white knight. Well, both white knight and black knights are basically the same nevertheless. Its color was just changed and recoated with pure white. Just in case, the commander is a flag bearer. I have thought it would be better to make it this way.

"Wha~, wha-wha~, wha~..... !! Uwaa ! ?"

The General of the Yuuron army was thrown off the horse, who was surprised due to the earth tremors and fell into the earth. Speaking of the horse, it easily deserted its master and ran away at full speed away from this place.

[If you feel like having a war, our Knight Order of Brunhild will be your opponents]

At my command, all frames take out their swords and pierce the ground with them. Seeing that, the Yuuron army lose their fighting spirit at once and begin to escape striving to be first ones.

"Re~, retreeeat! Retreeeat! ! "

"Run~, run away! we will be crushed! "

"Uwaaaaaaa ! ! "

The whole Yuuron army retreats from here scattering in all directions. And yet, they will be sent into the royal capital if they touch the wall if we're talking about returning.

When I look at the Yuuron army that hurriedly escapes, the chest hatch of the black knight standing beside me opens, and vice-commander Norun-san leans forward with her body.

"Heika~. We might be able to defend the land route with this. But if those guys use the sea route, won't they be able to invade Hanok?~"

"That route is safe as well since I have summoned about 10 large krakens in the seas of Hanok. I have warned them that they should not attack anything besides the warships, so there are no problems"

"Uwa~, how nasty~"

What are you saying? Call it a detailed consideration. If it's this wall, this place will be marked with an arrow mark if some doubting invaders invade or some strangeness happen. And there is a stack of traps like [Paralyse], [Gravity] or [Slip] present here. Although they can jump through the sky, it will then be unreasonable at the same time.

In any case, I should see to the state of affair for a while. I have prepared the bait as well. If the attackers from the other day are from Yuuron, there is no way they will miss this chance. They should make some movements.

Now then, shall I go apply the finishing touches for the tactics?

Chapter 159: Written protest and Grand Invasion

Well, I have imagined that it would turn up this way.

Since then, the official written protest from Yuuron was immediately sent. I then attentively digest the long-winded written text containing: "That land belonged to us from the start, so hand it over immediately. Otherwise, you are bound to lose the credibility from the countries in the world. As for the fee for our troubles thus far, send over here several bodies of giant soldiers (the ones called Frame Gear). Those have been originally made by our ancestors as well, so it is natural that we have that right. Don't do thief-like actions, have some shame....."etc. etc.

"They surely have some nerve to be able to say something like that at this point"

"They likely are just desperate to try justifying their actions"

At the tower established in the gap of the great wall, Kousaka-san answers with a mixture of a wry smile and an amazed voice.

The great wall created in between Yuuron and Hanok exists on the side of Hanok. We did not set traps and other defenses from that side. Currently, the shape goes like this:

Hanok ≡ Wall ≡ Brunhild ≡ Wall ≡ Yuuron

But I'm thinking about returning all of it to Hanok when the situation settles down. Naturally, the plan is to hand over the great wall at the time the territory is going to be returned. The great wall has been built willfully on my accord, and I don't mind it being almost free of charge with regards to the costs spent on its construction. But I will have to remove the traps.

Frankly speaking, it won't be a problem to have half of our household's knight order stationed nearby in advance after that.

"So, what answer will we send?"

"Force with force, friendship with friendship. Even though it unlikely for them to press us down with force, they might take up the challenge if dared to. It will,

however, be against me in the end. If they would want it so, it should be fine for me to individually fight against the country of Yuuron"

".....I can't truly laugh at how possible it may be. His Majesty is becoming a tyrant"

Well, I do recognize that I am selfish though. I didn't have an intention to create a "Country" from the start. It's just fine with me receiving a home with a large garden and try to live in it, you know. Truth be told, things like taxes are mostly not collected as well. Even the money which is being paid to the knight order or the maids-san is almost entirely coming from my pocket money.

Half of the money, which I can get from Alba-san, are received in a form of steel materials for the Frame Gear, and the other half is via cash, and those can be sufficient. So if I try to describe our household's knight order, they are not, accurately speaking, a national army. They are a knight order owned by me as an individual.

Well, even if the fight with Yuuron won't really happen, it will be about me turning into an opponent individually.

"Even if I am a tyrant, I have self-awareness. So I have been telling about how it's going to be fine if Kousaka-san becomes the king of this country for some time since a while ago, haven't I?"

"I decline it. If I continue following His Majesty, conquering the world might be possible"

"Although I have no intention to do that?"

"Even if one has no intention, that's often the case after it has already been done"

I guess so. Well, it might be possible to conquer the world if I use the Frame Gear or power of Babylon. But honestly speaking, it is a bother to do. It will also become a total armed suppression.

I suppose it will also be helpful if Yuuron obediently withdraws though.

The sound of the door knock with a "gon-gon" sound resounds in the room. Tsubaki-san enters after opening the door.

"Your Majesty. We have captured a spy from Yuuron"

"A masked fellow? Good job being able to capture him. Rather than that, has he

confessed?"

"We are also holding onto some powerful paralysis poisons even though they are not as potent as His Majesty's [Paralyze]. Furthermore, it's due to us receiving a special truth serum from Flora-dono"

What did that fellow hand over to them? I hope there won't be any strange side effects if it is her who created it and used the crafts of Babylon, but somehow, that's still scary nonetheless!

Apparently, they pinned him down before he self-exploded and used the truth serum after removing the mask. With that masked spy being a subordinate of Yuuron either way, I am quite certain that he had infiltrated and aimed at Frame Gears which are here, though I'm a bit afraid and don't feel like asking about the circumstances of the time he was made to confess.

"It seems like there are various tactics are advancing simultaneously in order to usurp Frame Gears. From the assassination of His Majesty to kidnapping and confinement of the honorable ladies, treachery maneuvering among knight order members and so on. Everything at the command of Heavenly King of Yuron"

"It seems like we have caught them by their tails"

Kousaka-san mutters quietly. We were slightly going easy on them because we didn't have any positive proof until now. But since it comes down to this, I won't have any intention to hold back. The same thing will be repeated all over unless something is done by force here.

"So, it is about time to get angrier, don't you agree?"

"Well, that might be so since they can go as far as assassination. If it was another ordinary country, it would unmistakably cause a war. However, I hope you don't have any intention of waging a war, right? "

Kousaka-san looks at me while expressing a little smile. He apparently was able to read my thoughts. I suppose it was our greatest achievement that we were able to invite this person to our country.

"The citizens of the enemy country will get hurt too if a war is waged, right? I want to avoid that. The one waging the war will only be a few people"

"Then, what will happen hereafter?"

"I think I will do the same thing to the Heavenly King"

It doesn't mean that the things I damage will be restored. I plan to show them that, "We will be able to do an assassination as well since the other side is trying to assassinate me", though I don't feel like actually doing it.

"And what are the specifics ? "

"Let's see. It maybe something like having the knife thrust at the bedside of the Heavenly King when he rises up from sleep, mix some awfully bitter liquid similar to a poison into his meals, have all the people from the Royal Palace suddenly disappear except the Heavenly King himself, or something else...."

"How could you even hit upon that kind of harassment.....?"

"Kousaka-sama, I have heard that this is the true nature of His Majesty"

Although I think that it's a cute thing, those threats will be nothing else but threats making him think that [Can I be killed anytime?]. But he probably won't know unless it happens that way either. I just won't go as far as [Kill or be killed] scenario, though I would like him to accept my gratitude.

"Well, we should leave that matter for a while. The first thing to do is to try expressing our regret and send back a letter holding a slight implication stating that "We know that you are the mastermind""

"While it's being done, what are you going to do if I get assassinated?"

"I can't imagine that it will happen at all"

Hey! You aren't thinking that the human is immortal or something, right?..... No, it might not necessarily be off the point since things like divinity and so on are overflowing out of me..... It looks like my body is slowly and steadily in the process of becoming an existence close to the gods if we're just talking about my body.

Well, there is no point worrying about that.

"Then, send the letter with those intentions immediately since we can now send it rather quick..... "

"Your Majesty ! "

Uowa ! I was surprised! The door abruptly opens and Paolo-san jumps inside the room. Do not surprise me like that!

"So noisy. What's the matter?"

"Ah, ex~, excuse me! Ano~, there a lot of odd smoke rising from the Yuuron side. Doesn't that mean the Yuuron army is attacking! ?"

What did you say? We hurriedly get out to the top of the rampart and when we try to look at the Yuuron side, there certainly is a lot of smoke rising up. It's scattered about here and there and both far away and close to us.

"Is that a signal fire from something or is it a bushfire?..... No, I don't think so"

There is no way that bushfire can occur all over the place to this extent. I don't know for sure since it is too far.

"That..... What is that? I can see a lot of shinning objects....."

Shinning objects? What are those?

I concentrate my eyes to the direction shown by Paolo-san. It certainly looks like something that shines..... Rather than calling it "shining", that's more in the lines of "reflecting" the light.....

At the time I noticed it coming here, I was already shouting.

"Everyone, board Frame Gears! Battle arrangements! Prepare for an attack! "

I leap at once towards the source of reflection by using [Fly], and confirm whether I was mistaken.

"Ku~..... what's with this timing..... ! ?"

A large crowd of clamoring Fureizu pushes straight ahead in the direction of the rampart.

They consist of small sized Fureizu bodies to medium sized ones with several large ones in between them. The number of Fureizu bigger than the Frame Gear also exceeds ten. Their composition varies from insect types like ants to the bipedal ones that look like ostriches, or to insects that stretch out like centipedes.

Their movement speed is not that fast. However, their numbers are too much. There is nearly a hundred of them.

"Target Lock-on ! Aim at the Fureizu! Invoke [Aport] !"

[Acknowledged. Invoking [Aport]]

A large Fureizu core appears in my hand. Ku~, that's no good. As I've thought. I won't be able to pull more than what can be placed on the palm of my hand. It will take time if I pull the cores one by one! Moreover, I won't be able to pull anything besides those small types with this method.

"Be entangled by soil, ground spell, Earth Bind"

The legs of the advancing Fureizu are obstructed by the trees stretching from the ground. When I was thinking that "This should earn us a bit more time", they then easily slipped out after 2 seconds. They have cut their own legs. And since those legs regenerate immediately, they start to advance as if nothing happened. What fellows they are.

From behind me, Rain-san in the white knight "Shining Count", Nicola-san in the black knight "Night Baron" and the heavy knights "Chevalier" beside them have arrived. It seems like they left some units for rampart's protection.

I fly to the side of white knight "Shining Count" and instruct Rain-san.

"Engage the large ones and bring them down! I will engage the small ones! They have regenerative abilities, but will be defeated if the core inside their bodies is destroyed! Convey this to everyone as well through the communications channel!"

[Understood !]

While hearing the reply audible from the external speakers, I take out the greatsword made from the fragments of Fureizu from the [Storage]. Its length is 2 meters and its width is 30 centimeters at most. I prepare to wave the crystal-looking greatsword with both hands.

By all means, it would probably be too heavy to lift if the effect of [Gravity] was not applied.

"Let's go ! "

I thrust into a group of Fureizu nearby. While aiming at the core of the first one, I was able to cut each of their cores in a flash of my sword with a *supann* sound and without heavy resistance. It's due to the dreadful sharpness of the sword caused by pouring magic power into it.

As this goes on, I cut and lay down the Fureizu one by one. I look around the vicinity while sometimes slipping through the extending arm edges and see a gigantic intermediate class clashing with a group of the heavy knights.

Lunging forward, bending at times like a whip, while at other times defending against the armed edge of Fureizu going through like a lance with shields, the heavy knights are inflicting strikes at Fureizu with swords in their hands.

Unfortunately, the Frame Gear deployed beforehand at ramparts were not armed with ultra-heavy ordnance and were having a tough time. Since the parts that are formerly broken regenerate, they have to deal a series of attacks consecutively.

Among them, only the black knight which Nicola-san rides is equipped with the war pike “Halberd”. As such, the fight is progressing quite advantageous, and in the end, he finally manages to destroy the core of the intermediate class he has been fighting against. He then assists the heavy knights that are having much trouble next to him.

The number of intermediate class is around 10. On our side, there are five heavy knights, one black knight and one white knight each. Will they be able to manage it somehow?

The sword of heavy knight assisted by Nicola-san breaks the core of the Fureizu in front of him. I guess that’s natural since there are two of them. The heavy knight that have defeated the Fureizu joins in as a support to another heavy knight as it is. At the same time, Nicola-san’s black knight faces towards another colleague as well.

I see. The Fureizu cannot do any sort of coordination. As far as those guys are concerned, the battle is a combat of an individual. Even if the comrade next to them is in pinch, they won’t do something like following up. So is there a gap to take advantage of?

In any case, I will entrust the intermediate class to them. I have to make an effort in cleaning up the ones of lower class since their amount is nearly nine times than that of the medium ones.

I cut down the attacking Fureizu one after another. Is it a fortune? One of them also stopped facing the direction of the rampart after they seemingly have

recognized us as targets.

It can be said that this mechanical aspect is also the weak point of the Fureizu. It is possible to say that it is easy to guide them. But when talking about in reverse, the threats similar to ones carried out towards the Yuuron army from the other day won't pass. Those are just massacre terminators that don't falter, aren't frightened, are not stepping back and are just earnestly hunting humans.

I cannot relax too. Although most incoming attacks are done in the same way by the edged arms, among them there were crystal arrows fired at me as well similarly to the time of Manta Fureizu. While defending against those with [Shield], I engage one of those guys and bring him down.

"It is indeed troublesome when their amount is numerous to this extent....."

The opponents are moving around in such a disorderly fashion as well, so it is difficult to smash them with sort of magic like an [Ice Rock] or hurl it inside the [Gate]. [Paralyze] or [Gravity] are not effective, and should I use something like [Slip], it will certainly swallow up the allies as well.

Ah, it should be fine if I make the swords of heavy knights heavier with [Gravity], right?! I suppose that is not a place for this.

In any case, I kept killing and killing and killing the enemies in front of me.

"That's the last one..... with this!"

10 minutes later..... no, it might be even shorter than that, but there were no more small type Fureizu moving around.

Even the fellow belonging to the intermediate class was done in and killed by Rain-san at this very moment. It seems like she has been able to eliminate it. I might have missed crushing the core, so without relaxing my guard, I keep alert at this place. There was no reaction even after 10 more minutes passed, so it seems that everything had truly ended.

That damage to our side doesn't seem to be that much. There are two machines with broken swords and one machine with a broken shield. The rest have minor damages fully covering the frames. Rosetta will cry due to those.....

"Your Majesty. What the heck are those apparitions?"

Rain-san shows up her face from the opened chest hatch of the White Knight. That reminds me, I have not yet given them an explanation. I then land on the shoulder of the white knight after floating up with [Fly].

"Those fellows are called [Fureizu]. They are aggressors coming from a different world and who once had destroyed a kingdom during the ancient times. The Frame Gears originally have been made for the sake of fighting them"

Though If I am to say it accurately, they are somehow different from aggressors. I wonder if it's better to call them human exterminators since they are trying to annihilate all humans.

However, it's the first time a crowd this large has appeared. It makes me shiver when I think about the scenario had I not receive this plot of land from Hanok.

"About the smoke from some time ago, wasn't it that those guys were attacking the villages of Yuuron? What do you think?"

"Perhaps it might be so..... Wait! this is bad. All members, withdraw. We have completely invaded their dominion. We don't know what will Yuuron say with this"

They are quite capable of saying something like "It's the army of Brunhild that attacked the village" at worst.

I hesitated whether I should collect the large number of defeated Fureizu, and decided to collect just half of them. It would be more and more suspicious if all of them were erased. They will have to accept that it were those guys who went there as the real criminals who attacked the village.

"Good grief, why do I have to care for this matter? "

I expand the map while thinking that this country is tiresome. The locations of villages and towns are being synchronized neatly when I display the places where a smoke is rising. As I thought, it was those guys handiwork.

However regrettable it may be, there doesn't seem to be any survivors..... Fureizu recognizes the sound of a human heart. It's useless even if you hide.

As I wondered how many villages have suffered damage, I reduce the map

from around the vicinity here and lower the scaling until the whole Yuuron become visible.

"Wait a minute..... what's that....."

Thats..... aren't there too many of them? Why is the smoke rising even from as far as the southern part that is separated by quite a distance from here? For the smoke to be rising from as far as the capital of Shanghai..... It can't be.

"Search. Display Fureizu"

[Acknowledged..... Displaying]

[illegible]

The red glowing pins fall down throughout Yuuron with a terrible force.

"You are kidding me....."

I let out a small voice as I look at the map dumbfoundedly while not wanting to tell anything.

Chapter 160: Sonorant and Dragon Knight Transfer

For an instant, I blanked out on what I should do. Their numbers were too much that it covered the whole map.

"Confirm, how many Fureizu bodies are there?"

[.....13169 bodies]

A hundred-times more than just now? What should I do? If it is just about defeating them, it might be possible although it would take time. But while doing it like this, more and more of the people of Yuuron will most likely be killed. If I say I am unrelated to it, I am unrelated but.....

"Wh.....to do....!"

"Ah, isn't that Touya? It's exactly as I've thought"

When I turned around to the familiar voice that called out to me, a boy with a white hair was standing there.

"End.....!"

"I've become slightly interested since a lot of "Sound" from the Fureizu have disappeared. But I see that Touya has defeated them"

Wearing a broad 'Nikoniko' smile and the usual apparel of a black jacket, pants, and a white muffler, he walks towards here. He is also looking at the white knight, Shining Count, behind me with curious eyes.

"This is amazing. Did Touya create them? Can't you let me ride it for a little?"

"Ah, no, It wasn't me who created them but.... Rather than that! Why did so many Fureizu appear like this!? Do you know something!?"

"I know it all..... Touya also knows, don't you? The barrier has been ripped"

Barrier. The one which separates this world from the others. Are you saying that it was ripped and all of those Fureizu poured down.....?

"Are you saying the barrier is already useless?"

"I don't mean it like that. This time, it was accidental if I am to say it. By chance, I think it is like Fureizu started falling straight down at the place where the barrier was loose. It is not like the barrier was completely torn apart."

Then does that mean if I manage somehow to fight against the ones that came here, I can have a piece of mind for a time being? It is dubious if I can somehow manage it but..... However, I have no choice but to do it.

"Is there a way to immediately defeat those guys?"

"Umm, isn't it impossible to beat them all at once? It might be possible to somehow attract their attention though"

"How?"

"It will be fine if you let them hear [King's Voice]"

[The King Voice]? Do you mean Fureizu [King] that those guys have been searching for?

"Fureizu [Core] produce a small [Sound]. Each has a peculiarly different sound wave, and the [King] core is not an exception. However, that [King] core slipped inside an intelligent life form in this world. Its sound is skillfully hidden by the heartbeat of the host. Then, what would happen if we emit this [Sound]?"

"Every Fureizu will come here....."

"That's correct"

Can I lead all of Fureizu here with that fake [King] sound?

If doing that is possible, then I can lead all Fureizu towards here. The problem would be our capability to fight against more than 10,000 of them though.....

Luckily, those guys appeared to be moving towards the villages and towns, in other words, towards the places where humans like near to scattered. We will not fight 10,000 Fureizu at the same time since those guys will come here in a scattered manner. Of course, the enemy will steadily increase If we have trouble defeating them rapidly though.....

"..... Can you really do that?"

"I can do it since I have something that sealed the sonorant of the [King]. This is where that [Sound] is sealed in"

‘Pitsu’, End took a slender thin glass object with his index and middle fingers. It was something like a slide used in science experiments.

"This is from my personal warehouse that I use to store and preserve things. It is convenient for preserving things starting from the large objects to useful stuff

like [Sound]. If I use this, the sonorant of the [King] will reverberate. Fureizu will then perceive it and aim this way"

Did you have something like that? No wonder he is always so nimble. But rather..... who really is this guy? He can't be called the friend of Fureizu, but.....

I stretch my hand towards the slide, but he pulls it back. Huh? Are you not giving it to me?

"However, I am not doing that"

End told me that while grinning broadly. This bastard.....

"What do you want?"

"I want that as well"

He points at Frame Gear while saying that. Eeh~. Ugugu. What should I do? His eyes are sparkling. Are you a kid?
(TL: like you can say that^^)

"..... You will not use it for strange stuff, right?"

"I will not I will not. Have some confidence in me"

It's impossible for him to attack us due to the emergency shutdown installed inside Frame Gear. I don't really understand it, but End seems to be hostile against Fureizu personally. I can't say he completely on our side, but I don't think he will become an enemy. However, is it a good thing for me to hand over Frame Gear?

The thing is, he will not hand that slide that contains the [King] sound if I don't give it to him. That's not a situation I've considered in the first place. I can't overcome this predicament if I don't use whatever means I can use, but I should put a nail just in case.

"I will be troubled if it gets stolen by some thief, given to somebody or sold to some country somewhere"

"I will not sell it, I will not give it, I will not let it be stolen. I promise I will make it my favorite machine. I beg you, Touya~a. Ah, then how about I exterminate Fureizu around here?"

What is this? He is talking as if the Frame Gear will be easy to control.

However, I feel like this guy can easily do it..... This guy is out of the ordinary in different ways. Damn, this genius.

Is it because I've met him several times? I don't think he is a bad guy though. But it's just my intuition. If only Yumina was here.

Honestly speaking, I will also be saved if I can gain time with him defeating Fureizu.

I open "Gate" and summon the dragon knight with a red-colored body, Dragoon, from the Babylon "Hangar".

"It is Frame Gear of high mobility type, the red knight "Dragoon""

"Wow~ it is red! Not bad"

(ED: Is it me or is the author completing the power rangers?)

This unit is a high mobility frame that's hard to ride. Either way, it's a secret that I pushed it onto this bastard on this occasion since no one besides me can pilot it.

End throws me aside with a lazy gesture and immediately climbs the dragon knight. The hatch opens and he gets inside.

End easily started up the frame, and dragon knight started to walk quickly. He began to run after walking for a little while he raised and lowered the arms. But before long, he lowered the heel wheels and showed excellent movements in high mobility mode.

OiOi, isn't he even a lot better than me?

"This is easy to move. I like it"

".....That, I am glad for you"

I had no choice but to reply to End, who came down from the hatch, with a stiff smile.

"Doesn't this guy have any weapons?"

"Ah~..... right. I didn't prepare it"

Because the dragon knight doesn't have much power, it can't handle a super-heavy weapon. Didn't I intend to make a weapon for this frame from the fragments of the Fureizu sooner or later?

This is just nice. There's a huge mountain of materials here. Let's make it then.

I've made two kodachi from a crumpled Fureizu edged arm using "Modeling". I also made sheaths for those while I'm at it and installed them at the back of the dragon knight.

"Alright. I am going to exterminate Fureizu as promised"
"Just wait! Go after you teach me how to use this!"

I hold the slide I have received towards End who was climbing the dragon knight.

"The sound will reverberate once you break that. By the way, it's impossible to copy that sound with machine or magic, so its usage is one-time only"

Really? I have thought of recording it on my smartphone to re-use it. But it won't be that convenient, will it?

And while I was thinking that, End takes another two slides and throws them at me.

"I will give you another two of the same. You will probably be able to scatter them if you use those at the same time in different places"

End continues to board the Dragon Knight as he is, and leaves by using the high mobility mode as if sliding. That fellow seems to be able to clean up Fureizu fairly well even by himself. Though if possible, I want you to defeat all of them.

It feels strong because it is a red unit. I will laugh if he comes with a mask next time though.

Oh, I can't be doing that. I need to hurry without thinking of stupid things. There are many things to be done.

=====Scene Change=====

I return to the castle for now and explain to everyone what is happening in Yuuron right now, about the existence of the Fureizu, about the world barrier, and the reason why I have made the Frame Gear.....

"How do I say this..... the talk became too big"

Yamagata-ossan breaths out after hearing my explanation. Baba-jiisan who is next to him also folded his arms and frowns.

"You may not believe me however....."

"No, it is probably the truth. The apparitions from another world; if things stay like this, the same tragedy as the downfall of ancient kingdom will be repeated"

Is it because Kousaka-san saw the rising smoke from Yuuron while on he was on top of the rampart, he easily believed it.

"Let's put that matter aside for now. The first thing to do is how to deal with the massacre going in Yuuron even now. Your Majesty, you wish to rescue the citizens of Yuuron, right?"

"If that's possible..... We are the only ones who have the means to oppose the Fureizu after all....."

"I am against it"

Kousaka-san explicitly declared it. That is the same as telling the citizens of Yuuron to die. They probably don't have the means to go against Fureizu. There may be hope for some military gains if magic and wisdom are made use of. However, I can't think they could possibly win against a horde that big.

"I will fight if my own country is attacked. However, is it really necessary to go out there and even risk one's life if the nation is not friendly, more so if it's hostile?"

"But with the way things are going, the casualties won't stop at Yuuron and will spread to the other countries as well, you know? It is no longer a situation where we have to worry about the attitude of some countries whatsoever. And right now people are being attacked one by one. Are you saying that we should do nothing even though we have the power to save them?"

"I think it is wonderful that His Majesty has a gentle heart. However....."

"Look here, Kousaka..."

Baba-jiisan who remained silent up until now opened his mouth towards Kousaka-san who persisted on doing nothing.

"We are the ones who know the most what kind of guy our King is. Therefore, didn't he help Takeda who was merely an enemy back then?"

".....The situation is different from that time. As a person burdened with a

whole country....."

"You are mistaken about that. He isn't burdened with a country. I boarded the back of this guy at my own convenience. I can't complain even if he shakes me off. If I hate it, then I should only get down. In addition to that, didn't we come to this country knowing this?"

".....Definitely"

Kousaka-san gives in while breathing out heavily. Say that, or rather, he was probably just anxious though.

"Considering the thing you wish for, I, however, think it's undesirable for only our country to act. Tell the circumstances to the rulers of the western alliance as well. It's also better to declare that our nation will intervene due to this incident"

It's definitely better to speak about these circumstances. It might not become someone else's problem after this. I am not looking to forcibly ask for cooperation, but it's not useless to confirm the enemies that may attack one's own country in the future.

I'm racing against time. I always welcome them after sending them letters, but let's go directly to the royal palace this time. I must hurry.

Chapter 161: Urgent Meeting and Allied Participation

"I see. Fureizu, that is. I can nod in acceptance towards Touya-dono creating Frame Gear as well seeing that those apparitions are the opponents"

The King of Belfast leans against the creaking chair. Though accurately speaking, it was not me who had created Frame Gear.

The ones present here besides me are the rulers from the western alliance namely: The King of Belfast, The Emperor of Regulus, The Monarch of Rifurizu, The King of Misumido, Her Eminence of Ramissu and The new King of Rynie; a total of six representatives.

First, I have explained to the kings about Fureizu, who are aggressors from a different world that had destroyed an ancient kingdom, and the circumstances that are about to occur once again in Yuuron this time. I tell them neither about Fureizu [King] nor about Babylon. It becomes a story of something along the lines of me discovering Frame Gear in ancient ruins, repairing them, and replicating the manufacturing process. Well, it is not incorrect in the most aspects.

"Those fellows, the ones called "Fureizu"? Are they that tough?"

"They have also appeared in our country, to be honest, even though it was just one of them. It is said that magic didn't work on it. It was quite solid and on top of that, it even possessed the ability to regenerate."

The Beast King of Misumido answers the new King of Rynie who raised his hand timidly. He is talking about the snake fellow which was brought down by Rin.

"For more than ten thousands of such things to come out at Yuuron..... Touya-dono, is that a one-time occurrence? Or will this sort of thing continue to happen from here on out?"

"Apparently, the case this time is a considerably rare one. However, they might appear here and there after this even if it will only be in small numbers. There is also a possibility for a grand invasion to happen sometime in the future like the current one right now. Forgive me, I'm not sure whether it would really

happen."

"Is that so..... No, don't mind it that much"

The Emperor of Regulus closes his mouth with a tiny smile. It's not like I'm a specialist on the Fureizu, but I'm probably the one who knows the most about the Fureizu in this world if we exclude End.

"Frankly speaking, there is a possibility they might appear in your countries as well. Due to that, please take a look at this"

The images are floating on the wall of the conference room. It's a video taken by having a summoned bird fly to Yuuron sometime ago to carry the smartphone.

The images taken from a high point in the skies are showing a large army of Fureizu attacking the villages and mercilessly slaughtering every human. It's the figures of slaughterers killing the escaping humans as if it's their entire duty to do so without any pardon. The six kings do not avert their eyes from the images and continue gazing at the Fureizu even while their foreheads are sweating.

"Those are, Fureizu....."

"This is a real time..... Ah~, it is not what's currently happening. It's an incident which happened an hour ago. It seems that after the Fureizu destroyed that village, they aimed at the village next to this one, and started marching there"

After receiving the smartphone from the bird that has returned, it made me feel completely helpless when I saw those images. Though I was glad to just photograph Fureizu, I could not have expected to take photos of the scenes of villages being attacked. It made my heart ache when I think of the people who might have been saved, but I still have dared to broadcast those images in front of the kings.

There was the matter of me wanting them to have a sense of crisis as well, but I wanted them to imagine what they would think if this was happening to their own countries.

"What is happening in Shanghai, the capital of Yuuron?"

After hearing the Monarch of Rifurizu's question, I replace the images of the Fureizu with the map display. The small red lights were moving around. They

are probably turning towards the villages or towns where people live and go there.

Shanghai is already dyed in red.

"It looks like there is some resistance, but I think it is just a matter of time until they fall. Fureizu's objective is to kill humans. I am guessing they won't move from that place until they massacre every human in that capital"

"Such a thing....."

The Ramisshu Pope holds down her shivering mouth. The Fureizu are attacking the streets just for the sake of killing humans. They massacre the people at one place and then they turn towards another place in search for the next human when they are finished just like how locusts devastate all the grain by leaping from one crop to another.

"Touya-san, over here.... in the lower-right part of Shanghai..... Doesn't it look like Fureizu over there are disappearing one by one.....?"

"Eh ? "

When I try looking at the place pointed out by the new King of Rynie, the red lights are certainly disappearing one by one. That's..... Ah~, that's End!

"That's someone who cooperates with me. As a matter of fact, I have offered this person a Frame Gear. I think that it is most likely that person fighting them"

"I see. I suppose that shows how Frame Gear is able to be a sufficient countermeasure against Fureizu"

End is probably powerful by himself, but as the King of Belfast says, fighting against Fureizu is the main point of today's conference. In order to talk about the pivot of the talk, I opened the talk with a clap.

"After this, Brunhild will fight a battle for the extermination of Fureizu using the Frame Gears. I would like you to approve of this as the concerned nations of the western alliance"

"He~, wait! Are you saying you have decided to be an opponent for all of them!?"

For His Majesty The Beast King to be surprised is understandable. Even if I gather people capable of riding a Frame Gear like our household's knight order

or Yumina's group, it will probably amount to less than a hundred people. By the calculation, we will be able to exterminate them if each pilot brings down at least one hundred enemies. Nevertheless, this action can be considered as reckless.

"There is an emergency escape magic applied on the Frame Gears just in case the frame receives serious damage. That magic will transfer the pilot to a special place. Naturally, it can only do so when the cockpit is being crushed or something similar. But in the cases of an instant death, the magic won't be able to do anything..... "

Fortunately, there are quite some amount of frames thanks to the mass production being done until now. At worst, we will have no choice but to cope with changing the frames one by one whenever they receive serious damage.

Then, the Pope raises her hand a bit.

"Touya-sama, I have one question. As far as [That gentleman] is concerned, are those apparitions called Fureizu his enemies as well?"

"..... I don't know whether they are enemies or not. He told that he doesn't know about them. But then again, I surmise that [That gentleman] coming to interfere won't happen since this Fureizu incident is our problem"

"What are you talking about?"

The Monarch of Rifurizu inclines his head due to him not being able to understand our conversation. He probably cannot imagine in any way that [That gentleman] is Kami-sama.

"I understand. Our Holy Kingdom of Ramisshu shall fight together with Brunhild Dukedom as well. Thankfully, I think that several people from Templar Order are capable of piloting those Frame Gear thanks to the "Frame Unit" magic tools lent to us by Touya-sama"

"Eh ? "

Is Ramisshu Templar Order participating as well? Well, I'm saved since they have said that they will help. But, is that okay? This mission will be dangerous, you understand?

Seeing this, The King of Misumido raises his hand this time.

"O~to, if that's the case, then Misumido will assist as well. How can we leave such an interesting situation alone?"

"The Kingdom of Belfast will certainly participate as well"

"Regulus as well"

"Rifurizu too"

"Ry~, Rynie as well, ~desu !"

"Ano, does everybody understand the situation? The other party is really dangerous, you know? Why expressly.... "

When I have given them this kind of warning just in case, I was overturned with their voice telling [Like you can say something about it]. Well, I suppose that's natural.

However, it is exactly as I have said it as well; this mission will likely contain only danger without any benefits even if they participate. When I say it frankly, The King of Belfast answers this question.

"For our reasons, there are a few of them. To start with, Yuuron most likely won't be able to retain its former power and is expected to rely on foreign countries. It is better to start selling favors in advance. Secondly, we would like for our own knight orders to gain experience battling against the Fureizu since we don't know when our own countries go through the same situation as Yuuron. Thirdly, it's in order to protect Brunhild. Or rather, it's to protect Touya-dono. The crafts and culture of this country are wonderful. If by some chance Touya-dono will die during this time, we will lose the opportunity to study it and the country itself will incur a huge loss. Well, that's how it is"

I see. How should I say this? That's quite a shrewd way of saying it. Certainly, it will seem to become quite severe even if Yuuron settles this fight. And we don't know whether the Heavenly King in the capital is still alive.

As for me, is it because they have aimed for my life? I don't have much interest in him being dead or alive. I will help if he is alive and if he is not, that's too bad but that's the end of it. Well, I have a tendency to help out as much as possible though.

"The problem is the situation that will develop after this matter is settled..... "

"Do you think that neighboring countries will aim at the weakened Yuuron?"

"Is that possible? However, the territory of Brunhild in between Hanok and Yuuron will be considerably helpful if that happens"

Currently, the foreign countries bordering Yuuron are, one, two, three..... six countries, is it? Should Ishen enter the picture, it will be as much as seven countries.

The Kingdom of Hanok to the west, the Demon Kingdom of Zenoasu to the north, the Kingdom of Nokia and the land of gods Ishen over to the sea to the east, and the Kingdom of Horn, the Kingdom of Ferzen as well as Romodea Federation to the south when crossing the river.

The moment a large country surrounded by so many countries is shaken, it won't be possible to predict what the heck will happen to it.



However, we have to settle the current problem in front of us for now for now.

"Since all of you are saying that you will cooperate, I will lend a total of 20 units consisting of 18 heavy knights and 2 black knights used by commanders. Please select the pilots for them. There will be 90 units from the Brunhild's side and 120 units in total from the side of the Western Alliance. We will then face them with 210 units altogether"

"10000 against 210..... So I guess each unit has to bring down nearly 50 opponents. There doesn't seem a way where we can win at all with this many opponents, but do you have some kind of plan?"

"Currently, lower class and intermediate class types have been confirmed among Fureizu. I think it will be possible to bring down almost all of lower class ones without much trouble if Frame Gear is used. —Seach. How many of intermediate class are there? Denote them with blue light"

On the projected map, the red lights are changing into blue lights in some proportion.

[Beginning Search. Finished. Displaying. Intermediate class – 1035 units]
"That is about ten percent. The numbers have fallen down to the point that each unit bringing down five opponents will be good enough. In that case, shouldn't we be able to manage this somehow?"

The Monarch of Rifurizu gazes at the screen while clapping on his bald head.

"In reality, the scenario will include kicking the lower class ones bustling around during the fight, so it probably won't be that simple. And there is a strategy for that"

Having done the introduction, I start explaining the strategy. It's also a strategy that's not difficult even if I say it myself. We will divide Fureizu by using the sound of the [King] I've received from End and guide them in three directions.

Among the three groups, the group that manages to annihilate Fureizu they are fighting will immediately be divided and sent to the other groups with transfer magic by me. It's about assuming the balance of war potential at all times.

"Please wait a minute. Does that mean that Touya-sama won't be riding the Frame Gear this time?"

"Yes. I plan to fly all over the battlefield, provide cover for everyone whenever something happens and function as a support unit"

I describe what I've thought up towards the Pope of Ramisshu's inquiry. It's perhaps better to do it like that this time. There is no limit to when and where from an unexpected trouble may occur. It's probably better if I can move freely in my position in order to deal with those unexpected troubles.

"Certainly. At a battlefield that's divided into three parts, only Touya-dono can see through where things will be advantageous or disadvantageous and send around war potential here and there....."

"Yes. If it is me, I can also compete against the Fureizu in some way or another even if I'm only flesh and blood"

"That's somehow doesn't suffice as an explanation... Is there a necessity for Touya-dono to use Frame Gear? "

"Although I can say that I can bring them down even if I'm only human, it will still take considerable time. Bringing them down quickly can be more easily done with Frame Gear"

While answering His Majesty The Emperor like that, we have decided to end the meeting since there is no time. Yuuron is being on the verge of crisis while

we are doing this. We have to hurry up.

"I will do the summoning in one hour. Until then, please explain the circumstances to the others and select the pilots for Frame Gears"

After opening [Gate], I send back the kings and their attending knights to their own countries.

There is no time and there are a lot of things to do here. Anyway, let's try doing the thing that can be done to the very limits.

Chapter 162: Battle preparations and Battle Commencement

"Araa~, something terrible has happened while I was not looking"

While hearing the explanation of my circumstances, the Love God..... er, Karen-nee-san was munching on a cookie. You are spilling it on the carpet.

"And with that reasoning, I was thinking whether Nee-san would be able to lend us her hand"

"Ah~ you know, that's impossible. I can use my power if it's matters related to love, but beyond that, I can't use it unless the subordinate god is involved, mind you"

"Saying "if it is love-related matters"..... Like what?"

"N~, I'm referring to things like being able to bring forth a romance between a male knight and a female knight on a battlefield they are both fighting at. Naturally, it is also possible to split them conversely"

What's with that? So they are all nothing but love-related affairs. Useless.

".....You were thinking of some rude thing, weren't you?"

"Excush~ me. Itsh painful~, pleahse let me go"

I'm apologizing frantically since my cheeks are being pinched lightly. Damn it. As expected, even this god is rotten. She is just idly living here every day and she's only sharp at times like this.

".....You were thinking about it again, weren't you?"

"Excush~ me. Ouch! Ouch!"

Now, I can bear this pinching since it's me. But if the person receiving this pinching is a normal person, I wonder, wouldn't he most likely be torn into pieces? I then move to Babylon this time while rubbing my stinging face.

Rosetta, Monica and the mini-robots were in the middle of making the last adjustments on the Frame Gears.

"How is it going?"

"We somehow seem to have managed it. There are 210 units present together

with 40 spare units making it 250 units in total. They will be able to go out in 30 minutes"

"Master, take me along to the battlefield as well ~na! Let's teach those lower Fureizu a lesson ~ze!"

Monica shouts while wielding the wrench. Among the Babylon Numbers, she certainly has the most proficient handling skills.

"Ah, in order to make it easier to recognize the respective members of each country, I have altered the color of the shoulder parts ~yo. I have also added the royal family's crest of each country"

"I see. That will help"

Only the right shoulder part of the heavy knights and the black knights have been painted in different colors with each country having: red for Belfast, blue for Rifurizu, green for Misumido, yellow for Ramisshu, and orange for Rynie. A number with the same color is waving on the left shoulder. Although those are necessary for the sake of discerning the individuals on the battlefield, they don't look appealing.

Should I get my hands on the blueprint inside [Warehouse], it might be interesting to manufacture a signature knight of each country like a [King Knight "Belfast"] or an [Emperor Knight "Regulus"].

Well, in any case, it will be after we cross over that bridge.

"What are you going to do about the weapons?"

"They will be mass-produced with [Workshop], but..... There is a limit on Fureizu-made weapons, you know?"

"If there are no materials so we can't help it. But if it's [Workshop], shouldn't it be able to produce weapons for the Frame Gear from the small fragments?"

"Making Fureizu-based weapons using [Workshop] is not like Master's [Modeling] wherein they are being transformed. It cannot combine them, you know. If the size of the weapon is for the use of humans, then making them becomes possible in one way or another. But as the way things are currently, producing large Fureizu-based weapons using small fragments just recycles those said fragments"

"Basically, mass production using [Workshop] is similar to using a dagger as

spearhead ~na. It will be fine even if arrowheads for bows are mass produced, but you still have to aim at the core. This action, on the contrary, will bound to be a hindrance to everyone else during the fight this time ~na. Ah, you also have to pour magic into those Fureizu-based weapons in advance, Master"

I think I now understand. Those Fureizu-based weapons are just ordinary glass weapons unless you pour magic into it.

Frame Gears and the weapons are okay. I guess all that's left is everyone from the knight order.

When I tried going in the direction of the lodging house, everyone seemed to be restless in their own way. They then run over to me after seeing me coming.

"Your Majesty, the preparations are complete. We are ready to go at any time "

The one who answered vigorously was Rebecca-san. Logan-san, who's standing beside her, also answers fearlessly.

It's not like every member of the knight order will ride on the Frame Gears and fight. Someone similar to the Ogre or Lamia demonkins cannot board them, and there are also people among the Knight Order who cannot ride them due to their constitution (like an awful motion sickness or claustrophobia and so on and so forth).

However, those people will function as a support unit and are expected to provide help to everyone.

"That's okay, everyone. Just don't do the impossible. Think about your own lives as the top priority. You have to withdraw should you think that you're in a dangerous situation. I won't consider something like being killed as honor. Everyone has to return safely and boast about the victory"

I open my mouth while looking at everyone's faces. I cannot afford even a single person among them to be broken.

"Do not overestimate your own abilities. Do not make light of opponent's strength. A little bit of cowardice is just fine. If you cannot bring it down with one person, do it with two people. If that's still not good, start doing it with three people. There is no need to be fair and square towards these guys"

Though I plan to support them as much as possible, the times wherein it's impossible to provide cover will still come. If there is an abnormality to the functions of the Frame Gear whether it's due to serious damage or something else, an automatic transfer for the sake of escaping will be carried out. But I can't call that feature an absolute safety. Should the cockpit be directly crushed, that will be the end of it.

In any case, everyone's safety comes first. I then return to the castle after reminding them of this.

When I went to the living room with a fireplace, Elsie and others were there waiting. I have asked only Elsie and Yae to join the battle this time. I have the remaining three to be on standby at the stronghold and act as a support unit during the times when injured people appear.

"Despite that I can fight as well....."

"That's because Rue's standpoint is the princess of Regulus. It will be troubling if the people from the Regulus Knight Order will put more priority on Rue's life rather than their own"

Yumina has a similar case as well. For Lindsey's case, it can be said that she is not suited for battle this time because magic is not effective against Fureizu. I have asked her to devote herself to recovery mainly because she can use light attribute magic.

"Elsie, Yae, and also the Commander of Knight Order Rain-san will deploy at different battlegrounds. And so, I will have Elsie with Kokuyou and Sango, Yae with Kohaku and Rain-san with Kougyoku to ride together. I want you to report to me if the state of the war moves in any direction"

If it is the use of telepathic communication, we will be able to understand each other even if we are separated by a distance by who knows how much. Thanks to that, it will be sufficient for me to judge where I should move to.

"Touya-san, please don't do something unreasonable"

"It's okay. I will come back safely with everyone. It will soon be time. Shall we go then? "

While accompanying everyone, I go towards the place made into a headquarters from the [Gate] opened by me. The spot in front of the great wall

came to be known as a headquarters.

There are 250 Frame Gear units standing in line in front of the great wall of Brunhild next to the dominion of Hanok. It's a magnificent view, all right.

The knights of each country have already boarded Frame Gears and are waiting for the time to sortie. At the headquarters, the kings of each country were observing the movements of Fureizu on a large image board.

This image board is divided into 16 screens, 4 rows, and 4 columns, and a different image is being projected on each of those screens.

It's an application of the camera technology of the Frame Gear, but the ones flying about and carrying those cameras are the Valkyries called out by me by summoning.

"Even though we are only here, I am grateful for being able to understand the state of war"

"Eeh, that's because it is unbearable to just wait without knowing what is happening"

Being next to the talking Monarch of Rifurizu and Pope of Ramissu, I look around at the Commanders and Vice-Commanders leading the Frame Gears for each nation.

The commanding officers from Belfast are Commander Neil and Vice-Commander Lyon-san. From Regulus, the One-eyed Gaspar-san is the Commander while the Vice-Commander of Misumido is the wolf beastman Garun-san. These are people that I know as well.

The other people present are the ones I have seen during western alliance meetings as guards and escorts for the rulers, but they are people with whom I did not talk to.

"Well then, I will explain the strategy. First, 90 units from Brunhild will divide into three parts with 30 units each and deploy at three sides away from the

capital of Yuuron. Those sides will temporarily be named “A”, “B”, “C”. The forces of Belfast and Regulus will deploy at “A”, while the forces of Misumido and Ramisshu and the forces of Rifurizu and Rynie will deploy at “B” and “C” respectively with a total of 40 units on each side. These 70 units in total for each group will be lying in wait for my command"

(ED: This means that Group “A” -> Belfast [20 units] + Regulus [20 units] + Brunhild [30 units] = Total [70 units]. Same goes for Group “B” and Group “C” with a grand total of 210 units [70 per group x 3]. Forty units will lie in reserve = no pilot.)

I displayed the marks for the three sides on top of the map of Yuuron projected in the sky.

"I believe that the grand movement of Fureizu will begin and turn towards Group “A” at the moment when our strategy starts. After having attracted them here, Fureizu will then be drawn to Group “B” consecutively when the battle between the forces of Group “A” and Fureizu starts. Furthermore, they will also be drawn to Group “C” in the same manner. I plan to have them disperse equally in three directions as much as possible"

With this, Lyon-san raised his hand.

"What are you going to do if they don’t disperse equally?"

"In that case, I will transfer several units from another group. I will basically move 10 machines as a single platoon, but it will also lead to one of the two respective platoons of each country to become scattered"

"As for the method to communicate with each other?"

"The communications channel has been included in each unit. Its scope is not that wide, so it won’t reach as far as other battlefields. I think the communications channel is basically for an on-site communication. Should anything happen, those three..... Yae, Elsie and Rain-san will hand down the report if you make contact with them"

I change the scenery and show the frames of the three people. Rain-san’s white knight, Shining Count, is still white, Yae’s black knight, Night Baron, has been painted in purple, and Elsie’s black knight, Night Baron has been painted in red. A Tsukkomi about them being black knights despite them not being black is unnecessary.

Yae's frame was equipped with a curved crystal greatsword and Elsie's frame was equipped with rough crystal gauntlets on both fists. Both are weapons I have made from Fureizu fragments. Rain-san is holding a similar-looking sword as well.

"Basically speaking, please access the situation at your respective spots in actual and move accordingly. Contact me if ever suspicious points or strange phenomenon starts to occur. Ah, and there is one red Frame Gear that's already fighting on the battlefield, but it's tentatively an ally. Any questions?"

"I have heard there are also Fureizu that are flying in the skies, but what is a good way to deal with those?"

"I will do the interception for those flying Fureizu. Please be careful not to take damage. There are also those that shoot arrow-like crystal objects among them, so be sure not to be negligent. Even if the frame takes damage, you will be transferred here if it's about the safety of the pilot. But if ever the cockpit is directly hit, the transfer won't amount to anything"

Every commander boards their respective Black Knights after the explanation of the strategy is finished. Then, Corps "A", Corps "B" and Corps "C" split up and Rain-san, Yae and Elsie deploy amongst Corps "A", Corps "B" and Corps "C" accordingly.

Also, Kougyoku, Kohaku, Kokuyou and Sango board the frames together with those three and serve the role of the communication channel with me. I have asked Norun-san, who is deployed to Corps "B", and Nicola-san, who is deployed to Corps "C", to the support of Yae and Elsie. Originally, they are moving individually. It's better to entrust those two Vice-Commanders to lead the knight order members. As for Rain-san, Yamagata-ossan will act as her support.

As for the headquarters, several Frame Gears, Tsubaki-san, Baba-jii-san and the summoned Cerberos strengthen its defense as guards. Even if anything happens, they will contact me in case they let it pass.

I transfer Corps "A", Corps "B" and Corps "C" to their respective spots with [Gate].

Then I went to the battleground together with Corps "A". Now then, Shall we

begin?

《The strategy will commence from here on out. Please take care of reporting》

《As you will》

《Acknowledged》

《Roger~》

《Lord, may the war fortune be with you》

Kohaku, Kougoiku, Kokuyou and Sango each return their replies.

After displaying the map, I confirm the current location of Fureizu. I then took out the slide I had received from End from inside my breast pocket.

"It won't end as a joke if this doesn't have an effect....."

I wonder if I should punch End if that happens. As I put power into my hand, the slide breaks with a snap.

"Are~ ? "

There is no sound or anything? You don't say, have I really been duped?

When I look at the map while succumbing to anxiety, the movements of the Fureizu stopped. After several seconds they resumed their movement and those inside Yuuron started moving in this direction. Apparently, this seemed to be effective. I guess that sound is probably inaudible for humans similar to ultrasonic waves.

Among Fureizu coming to this direction, several are moving with the speed surpassing the others by a head. Uh huh?

"Search. Display flying-type Fureizu with yellow"

[Acknowledged. Displaying]

The Fureizu that are coming here very quickly are dyed in yellow. As I have thought. The marked number is not that big. There are probably about 10 of them.

Seeing that the Frame Gear cannot fly, I have no choice but to take care of those guys. I take out two greatswords (Since it is troublesome, I will name those [Crystal swords]) made from fragments of the Fureizu and take a stance with both hands.

《Kougyoku, I will go beat the flying-type Fureizu coming this way. The first group will arrive here in about 15 minutes from above the ground》

《Acknowledged. Take care》

I communicate with Kougyoku who is boarding the white knight together with Rain-san.

"Now then, shall I go out as a herald?"

Using [Fly], I leap into the sky vigorously, raise the speed at once and go towards the direction of the flying type Fureizu in a straight line.

The battle begins.

Chapter 163: The Melee and the Appearance of Advanced Class

"Seenooo !!"

Just as I pass by them, I strike at the cores of each Fureizu and kill them. The first two bodies which are continuing to fly are split similarly into two.

The third one, the fourth one, one by one I continue to cut down every single flying Fureizu.

A group of Fureizu is running through while raising clouds of dust below me who serves as the opponent for the flying types. There is no choice but to entrust those to Rain-san's group. My duty is, first of all, to annihilate the flying types. I was lucky that there were no flying types of intermediate-class like that Manta.

While dashing through the sky with [Fly], I immediately descend and assault the Fureizu moving on the ground after I finish killing all of the flying type Fureizu facing me. I mainly hunt the lower-class ones and ignore those huge intermediate-classes.

I continue to grasp the movements of Fureizu while constantly displaying the map. The most distant group has also started to move going in this direction. Rather than moving normally, they are moving at about several times the speed in a straight line.

"It's about time the battle at site "A" will begin. I have to promptly go towards site "B"

With how things are going, all of the Fureizu in Yuuron will go towards Rain-san's direction.

After opening [Gate], I come out at site "B" among Yae's group that is currently on standby. The allied forces of Misumido and Ramisshu welcome me.

《After this, I'm going to call out Fureizu towards here. Individual deployment! Prepare for battle》

《As you will》

I send a telepathic communication to Kohaku. It's my expectation for Kokaku to convey that to everyone present here through Yae. While looking at each Frame Gear that is beginning to take a distance in a place they won't become a hindrance even if they brandish their weapons, I break the slide taken out from my breast pocket with a snap.

Among Fureizu moving in the direction of site "A" a part forks from the nearby flock towards site "B" and about the half of all Fureizu starts coming this way. Since there were already no more flying types, they were moving here with the same general speed.

"Search. Display the current amount of Fureizu "
[Acknowledged.Search completed. 12017 bodies]



The displayed number starts decreasing one by one, 12016, 12015. The reason is that the battle at site “A” has already started. Or rather, weren’t there a little bit over 13000 of them the first time I looked it up if I’m not mistaken? That End-guy, has he defeated more than 1000 of them by himself.....?

After leaping up with [Fly], I stand on the shoulder of Yae's frame.

"In a couple of minutes, the first group of Fureizu will arrive here. After this, I will be relying on you"

[I understand ~degozaru. Leave it to me]

I then move towards Elsie's location at site "C" after opening [Gate] once more.

Beside Elsie's deep crimson frame equipped with transparent-colored gauntlets, Monica's scarlet frame carrying a crystal pipe wrench made per her request as well as Nicola-san in a base-colored black knight greet me.

《The battle has already started at both site "A" and site "B". I will lure out the remaining ones here》

《As you will》

《Roger~》

While listening to the replies of Kokyou and Sango, I break the slide the third time. A few percent of Fureizu moving in the direction of site "B" started to divert their course towards here.

"U~n..... the dispersion was not done as I've thought it would"

Whether the timing for breaking the preparation was bad, it seems that the dispersion was not done in three parts fairly.

While looking at the map as the scope, I've noticed that the ratio of dispersion of those moving towards each of the sites was as follows: 50% towards site "A", 30% towards site "B" and 20% towards site "C".

"The burden on Rain-san's group will be great with the way the battle is going....."

I have decided to send several units from this site "C" to site "A" since the numbers facing this direction are few.

I then raise my voice while standing on the shoulder of Monica's frame.

"Monica and 20 units from the Brunhild Knight Order will be sent to site "A". I will send you behind that site, but the battle has already begun there so please be careful"

[Hee~, I am itching to put my skills to use. It will be okay, Master. I will kill them all]

After opening [Gate], I move both Monica's and the other's respective frames to site "A". There was already a violent battle unfolding when we have arrived as site "A".

While kicking the crawling around the lower-classes and mowing down them with weapons, they turn towards the intermediate-class ones, draws near them, and attack the.

"Let's go !"

I cut down the lower-classes trying to leap at a Frame Gear as I jump out from the shoulder of Monica's frame. With that occurring again and again, the reinforcements, which have just transferred here, plunged into the enemies with Monica's machine as a vanguard.

[Move aside, move aside~!]

The pipe wrench that is swung downwards by Monica's machine drives into the torso of an intermediate-class fighting with a heavy knight. The intermediate-class crumbles down into small pieces, and she tramples on the rolled out core with a "snap" sound. She then continues to kick the lower-classes still present in the surroundings with her whole might.

In order to not be mistaken as an enemy and be kicked, I also take a distance from Frame Gears while continuing to tidy up the lower-classes. When I look at the number of Fureizu displayed on the map floating beside me, it showed "10852".

The battle at site "B" has commenced as well. It will also probably start at site "C" shortly. I have to finish the small fries without delay. When I think about that, a telepathic communication comes from Kougyoku.

《Lord. Regulus machine number 15 has received serious damage. It is withdrawing from the front》

! ? I go towards the site after doing a map search. Over there, a heavy knight was rolling about with a destroyed left ankle and a right arm cut down starting from shoulder. The head is crushed in half as well.

I get closer in order to affirm that the pilot is no longer there just in case and open the chest hatch. There was no one in here. It seems the pilot was properly transferred to headquarters.

I put away the broken Frame Gear into [Storage]. While I was doing that, a telepathic communication came again.

《Master! Regulus machine number 15 can return to the front !》
《What is the pilot's condition?》
《No problem. The person himself is telling he can go》
《Understood. Have him be on standby at the transfer formation》

I am relieved at the voice of Rosetta reaching here through Cerberos at the headquarters. It seems like the pilot is safe.

Then I summon the heavy knight standing on top of the transfer formation at the headquarters to this battleground once again after opening [Gate].

The heavy knight that appears from among the reserve frames was the same as the one I have put away some time ago from head to toe. But its shoulder coating was different. Its painted with a purple [15] hand-written in scribbles on the left shoulder and the purple painting on its right shoulder exposed that difference.

As long as it's possible to discern the individual pilots, something like appearances are irrelevant due to the way circumstances are currently.

The Regulus machine number 15 immediately returned to the battle after it slightly bowed to me.

All of the intermediate-class Fureizu were defeated before long, and the clean-up battle with lower-classes started. Basically, the lower-classes are about as big as medium-sized dogs if I assume that the Frame Gear has the same size as a regular human. A lot of Fureizu are being crushed each time a weapon is swung.

《The next group will arrive in about 5 minutes. The people who are done should take a break at once》
《Roger》

I convey it so to Kougyoku who is together with Rain-san. After opening [Gate]

to site “C” this time, I then go that way.

In contrast to other sites, we are taking an initiative and are defeating the opponents whose numbers at site “C” are scarce. I am considering if I should send this war potential to the other sites.

The battle at site “C” has already begun too. As I’ve thought, the intermediate-classes are being cornered by several Frame Gears while the lower-classes are being kicked about.

I also plunge into that free-for-all battle and mainly cut down lower-classes one by one. Even if I continue cutting them down one by one, they are surging forth.....

《Lord. Ramisshu machine number 11 is seriously damaged》

The voice of Kohaku resounds inside my head. Is that on site “B”? This surely is busy! Come on! I have to go back there again even though I have just arrived at site “C”.

After having flown to site “B”, I collect the broken heavy knight and send out Ramisshu machine number 11 into the battlefield once again.

When I confirm the displayed number of Fureizu with a glance, it has decreased to a number of 9243. Has it decreased below 10000 already?

It will be a critical situation from here on out.

=====Scene-Change=====

I kill and kill and continue to kill. I smash the swarming Fureizu one by one while dashing through the skies above the battleground.

During this time, I also collect the seriously damaged frames and send out the spare units with the previously transferred people inside them onto the battlefield once more.

Thankfully, no one had died yet. But there was quite a number of people who had received brain concussion due to the impact caused by a frame falling down after it received a blow from a Fureizu or people who were similarly injured due to them being attacked close to the cockpit. The medical treatment is being done at the headquarters, but it’s a certainty that our numbers are decreasing

little by little.

Still, everyone's fatigue becomes visible when they have to defeat 50 opponents each. The number of people receiving serious damage keeps on increasing as well.

There are also still many more Fureizu coming towards the three sites upon confirmation of that on the map. The number has been already cut down to 5000, but our side is close to their limits in some ways.

[Haaa~!!]

Elsie's fist breaks the body of an intermediate-class and smashes the core that flew out to smithereens with an overtaking leg swing. Beside her, the spear of the Rifurizu Knight Order's Vice-Commander (I had the vice-commanders and commanders of each country to hold Fureizu-made weapons) splendidly skewered the core of another intermediate-class.

Getting on the shoulder of that Rifurizu commander's machine, I call out to him.

"Excuse me. The numbers here have already diminished considerably, so I will move Rifurizu Knight Order to site "B""

[Understood. Please wait for a bit]

As the voice audible from the outside speakers paused, the frames of the surrounding Rifurizu Knight Order stepped up in this direction.

I move a total of 17 machines towards the rear of site "B". I moved also there at the same time while still riding on the shoulder of the commanding machine.

A heroic battle was unfolding between the allied forces of Brunhild, Ramisshu, Misumido and the Fureizu opponents at site "B". Moreover, Rifurizu starts participating there.

While stopping with a shield the crystal arrows that were shot, a heavy knight strikes a Fureizu using the war club 《Mace》 with applied force. The blow was to the degree of causing cracks, and the other heavy knights downpour their opponent with a rain of war club 《Mace》 attacks one after another. If I look at it objectively, it looks like a group beating the hell out of someone, but it can't be helped in that situation. If one is negligent, that person will be the one

receiving damage.

Even during that time, a group of lower-classes start jumping in succession. The heavy knights carefully smash the cores of collapsed Fureizu while knocking them down with weapons.

It seems that the way to knock them down came with experience, but it is visible how fatigue keeps gathering to such an extent. It feels like their movements are becoming slower somehow.

"Are ? "

A red frame running through the battlefield with great speed is visible from the other side. That's not Elsie. Elsie is at site "C", and this is site "B". Then is that End?

I was thinking without any doubt that he would quickly conceal his presence once the battle started. It seems like he unexpectedly possess a strong sense of duty.

While doing a boisterous dance with a pair of swords prepared in his hands, he slaughters Fureizu one by one in a flash. He accurately aims at Fureizu cores with that speed, thrusts, sweeps, and cuts them down. That surely is a peerless state indeed.

As I fly in the direction where End is, the chest hatch opens and End shows his face.

"Yaa~, Touya. I am thinking about leaving soon, but will that be okay? "

"I am already somewhat saved by all the help you are giving"

"No-no, there are some circumstances, you see. It's unreasonable time-wise, you know. Let me give you a warning instead"

End raises one finger while floating an impish smile. A warning? What is that about?

"An [Advanced-Class] will appear in roughly five minutes to the northwest from right here. It will be better to move back everyone at once you know"

"Wha~...! ? "

An advanced class !? Fureizu ! ?

"Why! ? "

"I think that it's probably the fault of so many of them coming out through the barrier; the opened seam has been enlarged temporarily. And because it's likely that the seam will return to its original size as well after just one of the advanced-classes comes through, it will be fine even if you don't worry that much about it"

Saying it will be fine even if you don't worry.....! It is not that simple!

"Well, in any case, take care. See you soon"

"Ah, Oi! ?"

End disappeared together with the dragon knight in front of me like a ghost would. As I've thought, this guy probably can use a magic of transition system as well. But that's not the time for that!

《Kohaku! Have everyone present at the northeast evacuate from there ! An advanced class will apparently appear there in five minutes ! Hurry up》
《 ! ? Un~, Understood ! 》

Did he convey the news? The Frame Gears start to evacuate from the northeast one by one. Even during that time, they were smashing Fureizu in the surrounding areas and the displayed number of Fureizu on the map lowered to 2517 when I looked at it. And only a little bit was left!

We have already been fighting for about three hours, and everyone's fatigue is reaching its peak. Will they be able to handle the advanced class as an opponent in that state?

Suddenly, a sound of vibration reverberates as if the atmosphere is trembling. Among the trembling of the crackling air, cracks start to appear in the sky before my eyes.

The cracks seem to appear in the air, or rather, in the airspace. A portion of it breaks with a snap in a blink of an eye and a huge key talon becomes visible.

Breaking the sky as if trying crash it, that large body makes an appearance in this world from the warped space seen inside of crack.

If I am to illustrate its form, it would be a crocodile, I think. However, the crocodile doesn't have six legs as well as a long horn. It doesn't have a

protuberance at the tip of its long tail, and it's not supposed to have such dorsal fins on its back as well.

It has the same crystal-looking body like all of the Fureizu present till now. But when it's compared to the lower-class and intermediate-class who have a simple body line, this advanced class have a complex structure. There are three red cores showing through the insides of crystal body carved with serrated rough lines.

If I'm to describe this Fureizu in a single word, it's a monster. Its size is not half-assed either. It's far more huge than the intermediate classes, and Frame Gears look small in its wake. I think the metaphor is lacking, but if it has the size of an actual crocodile, the plastic robot which is 1/144th of it will be able to line up neatly beside it. Its proportions are about this much.

"This one.....is way too huge....."

I unintentionally made a gulp. Are you sure we can defeat this fellow?

While we were being dumbfounded, the crystal crocodile grandly opened its jaw. Light gathers inside of its throat where the cores are, and its strength starts to rise gradually. That's bad! That light is the same as that of the Manta-type.....!

《Kohaku ! Have everyone who is in front of this guy's mouth evacuate !》
《Eh ? 》

Shouting is not good. I will not make it!

"Kuu!"

I drop a number of Frame Gears located at that place into the ground against their will after opening [Gate]. The moment they are moved behind me, a thunderous roar reverberates and a torrent of light shoots out from its mouth.

The light runs in a straight line that way while gouging out the earth with a "Dokagagagagagagagagagagagagaa!!" sound and then vanishes. When I noticed that, everything that was in its line vanished without a trace.

Such power..... It's like a [Charged Particle Gun] I saw in some anime, although it's not produced by something like electricity.

It's similar to the Manta type in such a way that it takes time to charge, but its power is far superior. Should one be hit with that, one will disappear completely with nothing left far from receiving a serious damage.

..... So that is an advanced level.

Chapter 164: Meteor Shower, and Annihilation

I took out a receiver from [Storage] and adjusted it to the common channel. Whether or not the relationship would worsen due to a king of a foreign country giving out orders, I entrusted the commanders of each country to relay detailed instructions, but the circumstances are as they are right now. Fortunately, all frame gears here are within the range of communications.

[To all the pilots from Brunhild Dukedom! Don't stand in front of the advanced class Fureizu! Because it has a preliminary movement before it fires, you will understand the timing, but I fear you may get involved in widespread attack if it swings its neck! Always go around towards its back from the right side!]

The frame gears grandly evacuated from the front while running and went behind the advanced class.

As if waiting for this moment, the Crocodile-type Fureizu rolled its body to the side and hit the body of a heavy knight with its tail which sounded like a whip.

Bakyaraa! The heavy knight was blown away. It broke into pieces as it rolled magnificently on the ground.

《Headquarters! Does anyone hear me!? Has pilot transferred to you just now!?》

《Touya-san, this is Yumina. The one who transferred just now is seriously injured but is somehow still alive. Flora-san is treating him right now so don't worry》

I am relieved. It apparently wasn't an instant death.

While that crocodile bastard shakes his tail left and right as if threatening, he faces toward here. The speed of his movement is not particularly fast. It won't be difficult to avoid it if it's like this. But the moment I have thought about that, the spike-shaped protuberances are being formed at the tip of the tail, it started to shoot those like missiles just like that.

When I thought that each of those protuberances would explode one by one

once they were launched high into the sky, a barrage of many crystal arrows poured down on the ground.

"[Shield]!"

An invisible shield protected my surroundings and repelled the rain of crystal arrows. Everyone else held their shields too and somehow endured the rain.

"Give me break...! Something like a Cluster bomb.....!"

Cluster bomb is the so-called [Focused Bomb]. Inside of the parent bomb, there are heaps of child bombs. It's a bomb designed to strike at a wide range all at once.

It is neither a [Mark] attack like guns or bows and arrows nor a trajectory drawing [Line] attack like a machine gun. I can say it's definitely a [Head Strike] attack. There is nothing more troublesome than a wide range attack.

Furthermore, the protuberances which that Fureizu shot a moment ago has already begun to regenerate at his tail again.

That tail is troublesome. Shall I cut that one first?

Nope, it will surely regenerate the tail right away even if I cut it off as long as this one is also Fureizu.

While I was thinking, the Crocodile-type Fureizu started to move with heavy thuds.

"Slip!"

I set the friction resistance to zero only at the six legs because of its size. The crocodile splendidly tripped over, but when I thought I did it, the tail recklessly twirled around, and the crystal arrows down poured again.

"Kuuu! Did it have the opposite effect!?"

We, who had endured the rain, were captured in its field of vision (though Fureizu don't have eyes) as it fixed its tumbling posture and opened its large mouth; the light started gathering in the inner parts. This is bad!

[Spread out! Evacuate!!]

Even without me saying anything, the heavy knights desperately escape from

the line of fire. Once more, a roar and a torrent of light go right before our eyes. While the ground is being gouged out everywhere in a straight line, I see a distant mountain getting erased. Just how much power does it have? There are no victims here. No victims but.....

How can I defeat it.....? Since it is Fureizu, I think I can win if I destroy those three cores. But how.....? The weapons won't reach the cores because the body is way too large. It is too thick. It seems I can reach it if I make 50 meters crystal sword, but..... There are many materials around. However, there is no time. It will take nearly 1 hour to make a blade like that with [Modeling]. Moreover, how shall I swing such a thing?

Even if I send it to the sky with [Gate] like that of the Mithril Golem, it will probably be intact..... No, it will regenerate even if it gets hurt.

The crocodile-type Fureizu makes a side sweep with its tail and attacks us as if we are annoying things. Many heavy knights were caught in the attack and blown away without being able to avoid it.

And then, a rain of crystal arrows goes again in the same way. This attack is plain but quite effective. Everyone defend with their shields, but whatever happens, their shoulders and legs still suffer minor damage. If they continue getting attacked like this for a while, their movements will get dull no matter what and they will not be able to avoid it.

"We will only be pressed down if we stay like this..... Everyone, attack as one!!"

While holding crystal swords in both of my hands, I run through the air and reach the crocodile's flank. I could see before my eyes a core about 1 meter in diameter shining faintly through the body.

"tsuseee~!!"

I am shaving it down consecutively as if I am making a cross with swords in both my hands, but I am unlikely to cause it enough damage to reach the core no matter what. If this fellow is a crocodile, for him this is probably like a slightly big housefly trying to pierce him.

A screeching shivering sound is made from nearby its dorsal fin, and in the

next moment, I am being blown off.

"Wha~..... ! "

While turning over in the sky, I somehow regain my posture. There was no damage since I was not hit anywhere, but what was that just now !?

Is it capable of shooting something like a shock wave from its dorsal fin?

The rain of crystal arrows pours down without a moment's delay. Everyone's shields are at their limits already. I probably guess the only relief is that this attack cannot discern a friend from foe.

The majority of Fureizu presented here have sustained extensive damage since that attack has been sent out several times.

If I am to try and describe this fellow, he is probably an extermination type Fureizu. As the way the situation is going, annihilation is probable as well. Unless I do something.....

This rain of crystal arrows is troublesome. It is totally like a meteor shower..... wait.....

I look around the vicinity. There are fragments of broken Fureizu scattered all around on the surface like mountains. Can I do it?

[Notification to each member. I would like for you to buy me just 3 minutes. There is no need to attack recklessly. Just attracting its attention is fine]

They probably heard my message. The heavy knights of each country started to move in directions similar to turning away the attention of the crocodile-type Fureizu from my existence.

Good. Before it is too late, I pour and strengthen the magic on the fragments of Fureizu scattered around in the wide area with [Multiple] and [Transfer]. I raise their firmness so that it will be harder than that of the advanced level.

[Spread out! Take distance from the Fureizu]

Everyone moved away in accordance with my message and after confirming that everyone has taken a distance and evacuated away from the Fureizu, I opened [Gate] and moved the fragments of scattered around Fureizu in a vast area to the sky above the crocodile-type Fureizu. The height is several dozens of

meters. The aim will be off if I make it too high.

"Eat this. "Meteor shower《Meteor Zapper》" "

I applied the weight with [Gravity] on the Fureizu fragments transferred to the sky. This weight has supposedly sprung up to tens of thousands of times.

The rain of downpouring sparkling fragments smashed onto the huge body of the crocodile one by one. While making cracks in every part of his massive body, countless numbers of fragments bury into his body. Besides that, I have increased their weight once again by applying more and more magic with [Gravity].

The huge body of the crocodile is being sewn onto the ground while giving out a sound similar to a scratching of a blackboard.

The sounds of cracks spreading out in various parts of its huge body could be heard. I poured a considerable amount of magic power, but is it still not enough? I raised the weight once more.

One crack reached another crack making an even bigger crack, and by chaining one with another, they produced more cracks.

The crocodile-type Fureizu tried to open his mouth and shoot the usual bullet of light, but due to his mouth being caved in by the fragments as well, the mouth cannot be opened. The creaking sounds could now be heard.

"Break!"

I added more magic once again to be sure, and the fragments wedges sank deeper. Finally, the body of the crocodile was smashed up and dispersed since it's unable to bear with the force applied to it.

[Now ! Break the cores before it regenerates! All three of them !]

All at once, the members swarmed towards the cores that rolled out from the broken body and started to strike it with their weapons. One core received cracks in a flash and was smashed very quickly. The remaining two cores were smashed in a similar manner, and the advanced class was reduced to a huge ruin of crystals.

Uoooooooooooo! Everyone from Misumido, Ramisshu, Rifurizu, and Brunhild

hold their weapons overhead while raising a victory war cry.

There are still some Fureizu remaining, but it may be okay to say that the cleanup at site “B” is almost completed.

I guess we have managed somehow. I have used a considerable amount of magic power. Isn't that the largest expenditure so far? You may say it was necessary this time for the counter-plan against that kind of advanced level Fureizu.

[The Brunhild Knight Order will handle the clean up here. Misumido and Ramisshu will be sent to site “A”. Prepare for individual transfer. We will end this in a flash!]

[Oooh~ ! !]

Almost all Frame Gears presented at site “B” were sent to site “A”. The forces at site “C” are putting things in order as well. When I looked at the displayed number of Fureizu, it had decreased until 478. It seems like after this, the battle will only be a cleanup battle.

I think we have crossed over a mountain. In any case, we most likely managed to repel them. However, I can't puff out my chest with pride if I'm to say whether we saved Yuuron or not.

There might have been people caught up with the bullet of light fired by that advanced level.

"I guess it can't be helped even if I think about it"

I then open [Storage] and collect the fragments of the smashed up advanced level Fureizu while raising up my somewhat languid body.

[Yae, Norun-san, I entrust this place to you. I am going to site “A”]

[Understood ~degozaru]

[Roger]

Before I went to site “A”, I moved to the headquarters. Seeing me who suddenly appeared, Lindsey rushes over to me.

"Touya-san, are you okay! ?"

"Aah, tentatively okay. Although I am terribly tired"

I am worn out both physically and mentally. If one doesn't fight at such a series of battles, there would be no need to use magic excessively.

I crash down on a chair brought by Rue. Aah~..... Should I relax my mind? It seems I will turn into white ash as it is.

《Touya ? Can you hear me? 》
《Elsie!? Something happened?》

I energetically raise my face. You don't mean to tell me that two more advanced levels have appeared, do you?

《We have cleaned up as many Fureizu as we could possibly see, but..... Are there still some remaining there?》
《Eh? Aah~, wait a moment》

When I try to display map, there was no more Fureizu present at site "C" at all. All that remaining are the ones present at sites "A" and "B". The number has decreased down to 247 as well.

《It is okay. There are no more Fureizu there. Convey that to everyone after you have returned to the headquarters》
《Understood》

All members remaining at site "C" were moved to the headquarters. While I am doing that, the Fureizu at site "B" were disposed off as well and only the Fureizu at site "A" remain. The displayed number is dropping down rapidly as well. It will reach zero before long, and everyone that is standing in front of the image board raises their voices in great joy.

There is no relation to countries at headquarters. Everyone congratulates the people nearby them, clasp their hands and raise the victory cry.

《Notification to everyone. The operation is completed. The annihilation of Fureizu is confirmed. Everyone will return to the headquarters now. Good job 》

The pilots of the Frame Gears appearing at the headquarters descend one by one from their units, embrace each other and raise shouts of joy without minding who is who.

Some of them jumped from the chest hatches and apparently injured

themselves as well.

"Good jo~...."

I want to sleep like a mud, but a post-disposal operation still remains.

First is to collect the broken Fureizu, then to return everyone at headquarters to their respective countries, and move the Frame Gears to Babylon..... There is no one who can do it but me.

Am I supposed to meet with someone after that? Ah, I wonder if Heavenly King of Yuuron is alright?

I casually display the map, but the capital Shanghai didn't display. Huh? That's strange. I was certain it was supposed to be somewhere there.... And yet.....

After hitting upon an idea, I calculate the direction of the bullet of light fired by the advanced level Fureizu from site "B" on the map.

The line of fire of the second shot from the previously mentioned bullets of light and the location of former Shanghai overlapped.

The capital of Heavenly Kingdom Yuuron, Shanghai, has been erased from the face of the earth on this day.

Chapter 165: The last days of the Heavenly Kingdom and the New Weapon

A few days passed since then. As for all the damage received this time: seriously damaged Frame Gears – 36 machines, people with minor injuries – 24, people with heavy injuries – 4, dead people – 0.

Having no casualties is good, but the result can be interpreted in different ways.

The capital of Yuuron was destroyed and a large number of towns and villages were erased from the map. I believe the result wouldn't be like that should we conducted ourselves in a bit more skillful manner.

"So, what will become of Yuuron from here on out? "

"Who knows. It'll be good if someone like me won't be interfering anymore since it originally has nothing to do with us"

Among everyone from the western alliance in the conference room, the king of Misumido returns an answer to my question with no interest.

"However, won't the various countries start disputes over Yuuron from henceforth? Even though the people of Yuuron are injured due to Fureizu, should the war start on top of that...."

"Speaking of Hanok, they wanted to draw a line with Yuuron from the start so there is no need to worry about them. The Demon Kingdom Zenoasu also carries a non-interference policy towards other countries, so there shouldn't be any problems. Speaking of Ishen, their mood is that a civil war is about to happen soon, and it is said that the Horn Kingdom does not approve of military invasions"

"Then this amounts to what movements will done by the nearby Ferzen, Nokia, Rodomea.... "



Both the King of Belfast and the Emperor of Regulus ponder over the words expressed by the Pope of Ramisshu.

"Though I think that those three countries will be observing things for a short while. Try thinking about it too. A devastating blow of such magnitude was caused by some mysterious being. Would you even think of governing over a place like that? Whenever I think that it happens in my own country by chance, my back freezes solid"

It might be exactly as the Monarch of Rifurizu says. You can say that's natural for someone who considers whether the same thing would happen again.

"Then, is the current Yuuron in a state of having no ruler? "

"No, that's not it. The Heavenly King had three sons, but among those, one shared the fate with Heavenly King due to being in Shanghai. The other was in a different capital, but that place was attacked by Fureizu and he died. The last one is the lucky survivor and apparently calls himself the new Heavenly King"

The King of Belfast talks about the current condition of Yuuron to the King of Rynie. Has the New Heavenly King appeared? In that case, Yuuron might be able to set things in order once again too.

As I am thinking about that, the King of Belfast makes a face like he just chewed on a bug.

"Yeah, about that. According to what this New Heavenly King is apparently spreading as a rumor, the cause of the destruction of Yuuron this time is entirely the fault of the Brunhild Dukedom. In other words, it is the deed of Touya-dono"

"Haa ! ? "

How did it even come to that !? I didn't close my mouth that opened in silent amazement towards the incomprehensible false accusation.

"It is said that Shanghai and the towns were attacked by Touya-dono who summoned the Fureizu with some sort of summoning art. He then brings up the fortress built on the national border from the side of Hanok as a front for the evidence. Furthermore, there are people saying that they also saw how Touya-dono was using a large-scale summoning technique made by sacrificing and massacring the citizens of Yuuron and that there apparently are witnesses who barely escaped with their lives"

Wha~, what the hell is that !? Even lies have their limits! That doesn't look like a gossip from somewhere. Where did that kind rumor come from? Who said that someone saw me summoning Fureizu !?

"You know it considerably well, don't you ? "

"No, it is the opposite. Mind you, they have sent forth a letter stating that the events this time were directed and performed by Touya-dono, that they are the victims, and that the events that occurred were for the sake of taking an initiative of a western alliance and displaying the military might of one's own country"

"They have written that "It is dangerous to have Brunhild possess such military strength. It's for the best if this might is confiscated and managed by large countries like Belfast or Regulus and Yuuron as well""

Following after the King of Belfast, the Emperor opens his mouth. Are they going that way !?

"So, what will be the reply?"

"There will be none. I would say something like "If we assume that statement to be true, then it will be impossible for us rival that might by any means. Do you think we would be able to oppose an opponent with a capability to completely

erase the capital of Yuuron? You would consider surrendering obediently to Brunhild””

"In my case, it will turn into a grave situation if it's left alone. I would say "I will show this letter to the sovereign king of Brunhild and confirm if this is really true. Due to the sovereign king's short temper, he may come storming into your kingdom if there is some sort of mistake. But it's the duty of great countries to expose the truth. Leave everything to us””

Both of them are evil. What's with this feeling of "passing the responsibilities". Well, I can sympathize with the said apparent absurdity of becoming their opponent.

However, what can I say..... If it comes to that, I am worried that someone like Yuuron won't know about that.....

No-no. there is no crime with the people living there. It's not like everyone there is the same simply because one part of the ruling class of Yuuron is hopeless..... At least it is supposed to be so.

"For the meantime, won't it be fine to leave the matters related to Yuuron alone? The country being as it is currently shouldn't have a margin to do something to this side. And it is not like we are sharing a national border with Yuuron"

What the king of Rynie said is quite plausible too. Yuuron doesn't have either the military power or the national power like it used to. They don't fear being attacked by Hanok, so I plan to return the fortress built along the national border to Hanok.

Let's leave things about Yuuron alone. That's the decision. We also won't interfere in any way and will leave the interaction at a minimum level. As for the actions of the new Heavenly King, he has invited his own decline of credibility by far with regards to the western alliance. I think that an honest retainer would stop him if there was one. What can I say, the words "Like a father, like a son" come to mind.....

Whatever the case, the new Heavenly King was assassinated two weeks later. Apparently, a struggle for supremacy occurred among the influential nobles inside of Yuuron. There were people here and there proclaiming that they are

surely the true heavenly kings.

It is said that a considerable number of citizens from Yuuron flow to other countries becoming wanderers to avoid this war.

By the way, it also seems that the blame for the assassination of the new Heavenly King of Yuuron was pushed onto me. I am done already. With this country.

=====Scene-Change=====

"And, what happened ? "

"Nothing much, you know. It is fine to let people say what they want. Just keeping them company will be a loss"

"Fuu. If it's Touya, it'll be a piece of cake beating a country like Yuuron"

Suu becomes sullen while sitting on my lap who is sitting on a chair. Even you say something like that.

I was keeping Suu a company because it has been a long time since she came to visit, but she started to get angry more than me after hearing about Yuuron.

"In the first place, shouldn't Touya be the one who saved Yuuron? Why must you be blamed for something. They are only lining up what's convenient for them without investigating it properly. In spite of their contents being hollow and superficial, they are just adults who only barks and have no bite !"

"Well, I don't want to increase the troublesome matters any more and it is better to leave them alone, you know"

"That won't do. Get angry when it's time to get angry. If you don't demonstrate that you are serious, they will just continue making light of you. [Complicit] relations won't produce mutually good results. If one is not hit heavily at least once, the unawakened fools also will just remain the same"

What severe things she says. Is that it? It is probably what she learned from her father's, Duke Ortlinde, work as a diplomat.

"Then, what do you think will be a good thing to do?"

"Knock down every last one of the fellows claiming to be the new Heavenly Kings of Yuuron with all your might, and profoundly admonish them with something like "Stop with those shameless accusations!""

Okay, diplomacy fails. How do I say it, this brat's typical way to resolve things is....

Well, I'm grateful for that since she is getting angry for my sake. I gently brush the head of Suu who is puffing her cheeks again.

"Thank you. But still, it really is okay"

"..... Touya is way too gentle. You see, that's your good point, but..... Learn to be concerned for yourself more"

Turning around towards me, Suu comes clinging to me strongly. I also hug Suu close while somehow becoming happy.

As I casually raise my face, the door of the room slightly opens, and Shizuka's face is peeking while carrying a tea set.

".....I have brought tea, Loli-Master"

"The maid over there, let's speak for a moment "

It is different. Absolutely different. In this case, me embracing Suu is done with a family-related sentiment. No, it's not that. At least not now. Still.

"There is no need to do that in secret at this late hour, I suppose. This Shizuka has entirely understood the disposition of her Master. Do not mind me. Just enjoy to your heart's content"

"Come sit here for a bit. I will preach you"

"If it is training, it will be my pleasure"

"Enough already! Just come here! "

I have preached the ero-maid for nearly one hour after this. Throughout the preaching, she started saying something like [Please abuse me more] with a red face. I was fed up with it and stopped. Don't say something incomprehensible like [Irritating play.....].

I then go out of the castle while leaving Shizuka alone. Today, I presented a ring to Suu as my fiancée, but that's not all. I considered that I should show her Babylon. It is pitiable to be left out all the time. Just in case, I strongly forbid her to say anything about it to anyone.

After moving with [Gate], Suu opened her eyes to the view of the sky visible from Babylon when we arrived there and raised her voice in admiration.

"Amazing ! Amazing-Amazing-Amazing! A sky castle! The heavenly castle really exists! "

It's different from that castle though. It doesn't have a charm of being ruined. Suu becomes excited once more as I show the castle of [Rampart] soaring high at Babylon.

"Welcome home, Master"

"I am back. Liora. What about Noel ?"

"She is taking an after-lunch nap"

Again? The manager of [Tower] will sleep as long as she has free time. I wonder whether she only rises up during meal times.

"Touya, this person is ?"

"This is Liora, a manager of this [Rampart] castle. Since she doesn't go down often, it is probably your first meeting with her"

"My name is Pure Liora. Please call me Liora"

Liora pinches the sides of the pin-striped skirt and greets Suu with a graceful action. At this moment, I certainly feel that she is the eldest Babylon sister.

"Liora. Then, this is about the talk for the system"

"Yes. I have also spoken about it with Rosetta and implementing that seems to be possible. However, I didn't consider putting the technology of [Satellite Orb] into Frame Gear in any way"

[Satellite Orb] is one of the defense systems of Babylon. It's an automatic defense system which consists of orichalcum-made orbs intercepting the attacking enemies.

By applying improvements on it, I have considered equipping the Frame Gears with those. In other words, this will become a large number of remotely controlled offensive systems. Naturally, the idea came from that anime.

The flying objects will be in the forms of swords rather than obs and the materials which will be used are naturally the fragments of Fureizu (It is somehow troublesome, so I will name those [Crystal Material] from now on). If the size is up to this extent, [Workshop] will be able to reproduce it.

There is a problem of inoperability to some extent for those with no aptitude

for magic. The operational time will be restricted by the amount of magic power. It is not a weapon suitable for everyone, but it will certainly be a great advantage for us to be able to do ranged attacks.

When I temporarily called this weapon as [Fragarach], it established itself before I knew it. Well, that's fine. The people of this world won't know of its origin anyway.

Currently, the number of simultaneously controlled weapons that can be possibly installed is four at most due to the control systems of the existing frames.

As I've thought, the blueprint for the new model which is said to be at [Warehouse] might be necessary..... Uumu.

Arc 21: Women's battle

Chapter 166: Two Gold-Ranked People, and a Princess in Love

One month passed since the Fureizu's grand invasion, yet no particularly unusual information had arrived. I guess at most, the guild master Rerisha-san came and wished for an explanation of what had happened at Yuuron. Apparently, it's because there was a guild branch in Yuuron as well, and it was splendidly damaged.

The civil war (though it doesn't go beyond skirmishes to be even called as such) was continuing in Yuuron. From each area, the powerful nobles proclaimed that "I am the true Heavenly King", and got themselves defeated. Then other ones declared themselves as such and were then defeated. And so on and so forth.

Rather than being called a single large country, there are several city-states existing already within Yuuron. It is becoming a place which can be called "Yuuron Region". They may perhaps become a federation similar to the Rodomea Federation should an alliance be formed between them, but that seems to be a long road.

"Those conceited will not last long as if they are like a dream on a spring night.....?"

"What is it that you are saying?"

"No matter how much you flourish, it won't last forever. It is a fleeting moment like a dream in a short spring night. That kind of meaning"

I explain the meaning to Monica who looked puzzled at my monolog in modern language. Well, Yuuron probably has continued for a long time as a country though.

The information regarding the destruction of Yuuron quickly spread to the other countries, and the cause was the grand rampage of mysterious apparitions.

Only a portion of Yuuron's nobles were shouting about that being my work. In the guild's insightful announcement, they accurately distributed things about

"The appearance of an unknown apparition" "Its designated name being 'Fureizu'" "Them being the cause of the ancient civilization's downfall" and so on and so forth to the adventurers.

The things like characteristics and weak points of Fureizu were also disclosed by the guild. A skilled adventurer's party should be able to take it down if it is a low-class type.

That's because it is not known in which country they might appear. These measures are probably necessary.

If I am to believe End's words, I don't think a large number will appear for a while.

"Then, the limit for "Fragarach" is four as expected, right?"

"That is so, ~dearimasu. I'm afraid that the body itself will no longer move if any more than that is placed ~dearimasu"

That will be bad on the battlefield. It will only make you a target. This has nothing to do with the pilot's magic power, but rather, it is the limit of the old Frame Gears.

Rosetta comes down from the Black Knight 《Night Baron》 that is carrying 4 Fragarach installed in X shape on its back.

Fragarach is also a crystal sword by itself and can also be used as a simple weapon carried in hand.

The Fragarach's attack which consumes a lot of magic power is not something that can be used consecutively very much. I suggested doing something like loading my magic power using "Transfer" in advance, but since it needs to be manipulated after synchronization with the pilot's magic power is done, it seems Fragarach will be reduced to a tool that can only be manipulated by me if I do that.

Even after completing this weapon, there is still have a lot of tasks to do.....

《Lord, is it alright?》

《Huh? Kohaku? What's wrong?》

A telepathic communication comes from Kohaku who is in the royal castle.

《Messengers from a foreign country have apparently come seeking an audience with Lord》

《Foreign messengers?... Chase them away if they are from Yuuron》

《No, they seem to have come from a country called the Restia Knight Kingdom or something》

The Restia Knight Kingdom, you say..... Is that... a country of Princess Hildegarde whom I saved when the Fureizu attacked some town?

Oh right. When I saved her, I gave her a crystal sword and she was pleased with it. She did say something about sending their thanks. Is this it?

I then go to the royal castle's audience hall with "Gate" at once since I don't want to keep them waiting, but no one is here. Huh?

"Ah, Your Majesty. This way"

When I was standing alone there, the head maid Lapis-san beckoned me to come.

"Haven't messengers from Restia come?"

"That is so but.....When I asked them to wait for a little while because his majesty is not here yet, they said they wish to see the knights training....."

Oh, my. As expected from the messengers of the Knight Kingdom, I guess? It seems they are interested in the knights of other countries too. Well, I won't be troubled if it's just watching.

When I finally arrived at the training grounds, Logan-san and one female knight were exchanging blows with fake swords. Or rather, huh? Isn't that Princess Hildegarde?! What is she doing!?

"Haaaaaaa~!"

Princess Knight delivered a blow accompanied by a loud screaming yell, and Logan-san's sword was knocked high up in the sky. Oou, she is good.

"That's enough!"

Nicola-san's voice echoes on the training grounds. The cheers rose from the surrounding crowd. Some of the Restia knights were also mixed with our household's knights.

"T-thank you very much, Princess"

"Same here"

Both exchange their thanks and finish the match. Did she notice me? The princess jogged towards here. Her long blonde hair shakes softly with the wind. Though she is in her usual armor, her smile is lovely. If I am not mistaken, isn't she the same age as Yae?

"Y-your Majesty! It has been a long time!"

"Ah, yes. It has been a long time. Or rather, why is Princess Hildegarde here!?"

I returned her greeting unconsciously. But apart from that, why has Princess Hildegarde come here?

"This visit is a gratitude for that time, and there is also something I wanted to ask..... But I came only as an attendant"

"Attendant you say..... for whom?"

"For me ~jayo"

An old man stepped forward from behind the Restia Knights. He is probably about 70 years old. He's an old man with a long white mustache and a cane. Although he is using a cane, his back is straight. He is a vigorous one. Is he by chance....

"Nice to meet you for the first time, Sovereign King of Brunhild. My name is Galen Yunas Restia. I'm the Sen'ou of the Restia Knight Kingdom, as well as a gold rank adventurer similar as his Majesty the Sovereign King ~jayo"

(TL: Sen'ou = Former King)

The Sen'ou takes out a guild card from his pocket and shows it to me. It is the real thing. Then this person most likely is the gold-rank adventurer other than me.

"Thank you for this. I am Mochizuki Touya. I have heard about Sen'ou from the guild master Rerisha-san"

"Hou-hou-ho. I have received something good a few days ago, you have my gratitude. I was wondering if I could go on a sightseeing tour in Brunhild as well as to convey my thanks"

"Well-well. There are not that many places for sightseeing, but you can relax

here as if you're in your home"

When I reached out to shake Sen'ou-Heika's hand, I missed. Huh?

"Kyaaa~!?"

I looked behind towards the sudden scream, Lapis-san was holding her bottom and twisting her body. The Sen'ou-Heika was standing behind her while making a 'waki waki' motion with his palm. Eh?

"Ya, Sorry-sorry. It's my usual habit. Fumu, what a considerably trained ass ~jano. Ojou-san, you are not a mere maid, are you?"

"Ojii-sama!! This place is not Restia, so please have some restraint !!"

"My hand moves instinctively when I see a beauty. I have been patient till now, but I reached my limit ~ja. Ka-ka-ka"

Princess Hildegarde flares up at Sen'ou-Heika. It seems this behavior is a daily occurrence in Restia. In the past, she made a bitter smile when I asked about Sen'ou-Heika. Is this the reason for that smile? What an outrageous old man.....

However, when did he get around me? If it is Lapis-san, she is a former member of intelligence service. She wouldn't let him get behind her that easy. This old man, he isn't an ordinary person. Should I be saying, as expected of a gold rank adventurer? Though, he may be just an Ero-jijii.

"I am sorry! This is..... Something like my Oji-sama's spasm! Ah, it will be alright once he touches you, so please don't worry!"

"Haa.....This is hardship....."

What kind of spasm is that? This is so-called Sen'ou of the Knight Kingdom..... His image is entirely different.

We decided to return to the royal castle for now. The knights of Restia that came together with the Princess's group were guided to the lodgings of our household knights. Although some of them followed us as escorts for the princess and Sen'ou.

When we entered the royal castle and I was about to guide them around....

"Kyaaa!?"

"Hou-hou-ho"

"Ojii-sama!"

This exchange was repeated several times. The damage to our maids is terrible. Won't this matter turn into an international problem?

Won't it be better to hold him down with "Gravity" some more?

"Oh ~yo? Touya-kun ~nanoyo. Good morning ~nanoyo"

Karen-nee-san came from the corner of the hallway. The next moment, Restia Sen'ou moved with a lightning speed around Nee-san while his hand once more flickered towards her bottom.

However, the next moment, Sen'ou-Heika turned around himself and rolled down on the floor.

".....What"

There wasn't any change in Nee-san who managed to repel the molester without his hand touching her. As for the still dumbfounded Sen'ou-Heika, he was still on the floor as he was.

"Touya-kun, who is this person ~nanoyo?"

"Eh? Ah, this is Sen'ou-Heika of Restia Kingdom"

"Hmmm, what a healthy Ojii-chan ~nanoyo"

I introduced Karen-nee-san to the people from Restia who were still blinking in surprise even now. Tentatively, she is the only other royalty here beside me.

"I apologize for my Nee-san's rudeness. I'm sorry"

"No-no! It can be said that this is entirely our fault from the start! It's a good medicine for my ojii-sama. A divine punishment"

It really was a divine punishment, but I have decided to keep silent. It's probably nothing but luck since this ended with just that after trying to touch Goddess-sama's bottom.

"However, it's as expected of His Majesty's older sister. This is the first time I see a woman who could repel my ojii-sama..... Ano, what is it?"

Karen Nee-san was staring at Princess Hildegard with 'Ji———i'. It was a look as if she's peering into the depth of princess's heart like she was searching for something. Before long, Nee-san slowly began to talk.

"You.... are in love, aren't you?"

"Fueaaa!?"

Princess Hildegarde shrinks back with a red face. Her usual dignified expression vanished, and sweat appeared on her forehead in bulk.

"Wh-what do you mea~!? L-l-l-ove somethi~, Love or something, you say! Nu-nuthing like that!"

"Fufufufuffu. No one can hide one's love in front of me ~noyo. Shall I advise you ~noyo? You should come to my place later ~noyo"

Nee-san left for the dining room after leaving behind this message. Princess Hildegarde was covering her face which went red and was muttering something in tiny voice.

"Are you alright?"

"F,fuu!?A-ah I-i am f-fine! Alright! Fuu....."



You don't look fine at all but..... It feels like smoke will come out from your head anytime soon.

However, she is in love, isn't she? It definitely is correct since my Nee-san, the love goddess, said so. Even if she is called a "Knight Princess", she is still a girl

after all. For her to have her face to become this red just by remembering about a person she likes.

She has been glancing intermittently at me from time to time since a little while ago. Is she embarrassed that I who is an outsider saw her in that state? Isn't it best to feign ignorance here and let it go?

"Then, Sen'ou-Heika, Princess Hildegarde. Shall we go?"

"E-excuse me. Rather than Hildegarde, please call me Hilda! That, what everyone close to me calls me with....."

The princess while being bashful said that. Indeed, her name is slightly hard to call. Let's take advantage of that since she herself requested it.

"I understand. Then Princess Hilda, please from here"

"Ha, Yes!"

"Hou-hou-ho"

Princess Hilda answers with a full smile on her face. Sen'ou Heika laughed a little on that.

? Was it somehow amusing?

Chapter 167: Dazzling First Love and a Match

"And, what is the matter that you wanted to ask about?"

Princess Hilda and Sen'ou are sitting on a three person sofa in the castle's reception room. I have sat in front of them and listened to the two.

Apparently, both of them have hidden their social positions with saying that they are traveling incognito. Certainly, their armor didn't have the emblems of Restia.

Sen'ou-heika being also a former adventure seems to have connections in various places. Apparently, they have managed to come here without any problems. I guess he is a rather unusual person after all.

According to what I heard, they have hidden their social status and went as far as doing something similar to what the elderly Lord Mito did..... Is it like "Do you know who is this coming gentleman? He is Galen-sama, the former king!" "Haha~!" ? There is no way, right? There are no shinobi or someone like that carrying pinwill toys here, right?

(TL: (https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tokugawa_Mitsukuni))

(TLC: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mito_K%C5%8Dmon, also a reference to one of the characters from historical drama, ninja Yashichi)

Well, whether he does without minding any troubles, it isn't like I can say anything about it.

"Actually, regarding the collapse of Yuuron a few days ago....."

Princess Hilda have brought up the subject. I see, it is about that, huh?

The concerned parties in that war happened to be people from the foreign country and due to Yuuron's inconsistent and groundless rumors, what actually happened can't be grasped or so it feels like. That has been particularly noticeable in the East.

It is ironic that the West knows more about the situation than the East given the fact that it happened in the east, but it can't be helped since most of the countries that participated came from the west.

The guild has supposedly fed the correct information, but it is hard to believe the truth by the facts alone. Not affected by magic, having regenerative ability, appearing from the tear in space..... Such apparitions didn't appear till now.

I recited the events that happened in Yuuron to the two people in details.

"So there really was a great invasion of that Fureizu, wasn't there? At any rate, the allied forces of Belfast, Regulus, Misumido, Rifurizu, Ramisshu, Rynie were there.....?"

"They were the opponents that we wouldn't have beaten if we didn't join forces by at least this much. In fact, Shanghai was blown off with only a single blow from the advanced type"

"A terrifying story ~jano..... And, what is the possibility of a similar event to happen again?"

Sen'ou-heika's worry is also justified since a group of low-grade Fureizu did appear in Restia after all. Rather than skillfully deceiving them, it is probably better to adequately explain the truth to them.

"I don't think it will happen for a while. However, it's possible a similarly grand invasion might happen sometime in the future. Therefore I am pushing forward various preparations to cope with that"

"Frame Gear, are you talking about that giant soldiers?"

Do they know about it? Well, I did think that the information would leak out to some extent.

Believing that it's faster to show it to them rather than explaining it, we then moved to the western prairie outside the castle while also bringing along the escort guards.

Sen'ou-heika and Princess Hilda, including the escort guards, were utterly surprised with their first transition. In addition to their initial surprise, I let the Black Knight transfer from Babylon to the ground.

"This is the Frame Gear "Black Knight 《Night Baron》". One of our ultimate weapons to fight the Fureizu"

Everyone seemed unable to speak from the shock. I take out a receiver from "Storage" and call Monica who is inside the cockpit.

[Show them some movements. Don't be reckless]

[Acknowledge ~ze, Master]

Monica shows various movements like walking, running, making a sword drawing stance, thrusting, and swinging it up and down.

"This..... Frame Gear, how many units were deployed at the fight in Yuuron?"

"There were about 250 units including the spare units prepared. There were approximately 13,000 Fureizu, so the situation was quite grave"

"Those, 250..... What does his Majesty of Brunhild wish to do with that much military power?"

Sen'ou-heika's eyes turn to me as if probing me. I guess even if the thoughts about me having some ambitions appeared in his mind, it can't be helped.

"You may not believe me, but I don't have any intentions to use this to invade other countries. And it is not limited to only invasions. Their foremost purpose is to fight against the Fureizu. Even for the countries of the Western alliance, I wouldn't lend it to them if there isn't a dangerous situation"

"What do you mean by "dangerous situation"?"

"The events like the subjugation of a Behemoth or the rescue in the events of calamities such as landslides"

In fact, I have lent it out to each country several times already. I don't have any problems if it's being used to save lives. Of course, I didn't take a rental fee since it's a goodwill till the end. Ah, I will have them pay for the costs of the materials if they break it when fighting against a Behemoth.

"For argument's sake, can I borrow this guy if our Restia forms an alliance with your country?"

"As long as it's not used for war or something illegal"

Won't the technology be stolen if you lent it to another country and they analyze it? I was asked this question, but on the contrary, I want you to show me whether you can do it. Even me and Rosetta can't produce Frame Gear from the scratch. I suppose it can't be done unless an abnormal genius like that hentai professor appears.

Even if they disassemble it, they perhaps may be only able to make the arms and the feet, but the central part will be impossible. Above all that, it will most

likely be impossible to make Ether Liquid which is the fuel. Well, if it's disassembled to the point it can't be reassembled, I won't lend it to them again.

"One of my purposes for coming to Brunhild is wanting to establish a friendly relationship with your country ~ja. I can't join an alliance without asking my son who is the king for the meantime, but he will hardly object"

"It will be a pleasure for us as well, but I must consult with the other countries"

Well, I don't think there will be any objections on our side as well. As you may expect of Restia that is called the Knights Kingdom, it seems to be a country with faithful, pure intentions and citizens.I can hardly believe that looking at this old man though.

But will we have to change the name "Western Alliance" if Restia joins? Restia is on the east. Hmm. Well, isn't it fine if I think about this later?

=====Scene Change=====

"Seyaaaaaaaaaaaa!!"

"Haaaaaaaaaaaa!!"

Their swords stopped just before they hit the bodies. Princess Hilda's wooden sword is on Yae's side. Yae's wooden sword barely stopped at Princess Hilda's nape. It was a wonderful simultaneous draw.

"That's enough!"

The voice of me who volunteered to be the referee echoes through the underground training grounds.

Princess Hilda said that she wanted to fight against the best swordsman of this country, so I bumped her against Yae for now. If it's Kenjutsu alone, she is above even Yamagata-ossan after all.

Through this one year, just how many Kenjutsu websites and videos you think I have shown to Yae? She made them her own like how a sponge absorbs water and have improved over them even more. I think her Kenjutsu is becoming more and more greatly detached from her parent's "Kokonoe Shinmei Ryu".

Though I can say that Princess Hilda who was able to have a draw with that Yae is also amazing.

Mutually lowering their swords, they take deep sighs.

"It was a fun match. His Majesty really has a wonderful knight"

"Nope? I am not one of the Knights ~degozaru, you know?"

"Eh?"

After the match, Princess Hilda tilts her heads while having a handshake with Yae.

"I am Touya-dono's betrothed ~gozaru"

"Betrothed ?"

"It means fiancée"

When I butted in the conversation from the side, Princess Hilda stopped moving. Huh? What's wrong?

Her neck turns around awkwardly like a broken door, and her eyes turn towards me. What is it? There is no light in her eyes.....

"Engaged, person, you, were, weren't you?"

"Eh? Huh..... Well. That, didn't you hear? There should have been a big announcement about my engagement to Yumina and Rue"

"Yumina? Rue?"

I felt that Princess Hilda wanted to ask "Who are those?". It seems she honestly doesn't know about them. Well, perhaps the news has not yet been spread to the east.

"They are the Princesses of Belfast and Regulus ~degozaru. Both of them are Touya-dono's fiancées same as me ~degozaru"

"Yees!? T-three fiancées!?"

"Six, to be accurate ~degozaru"

"Siiii.....!?"

Princess Hilda was lost for words. Muu. Did that catch her interest? As expected, even though polygamy is accepted in this world, wealthy merchants or nobles usually have only two or three people and it seems there are some kings with an outrageous number of wives. But apparently, the usual royalty have about as many as five wives.

Even if we exclude the merchants and nobles with wives, there apparently is a

considerable number of lovers or concubines in cases when there is no formal "Wife" present.

Although after getting married to a formal wife, the number of partners generally increases little by little. And someone like me who already has a lot of marriage partners seems to be rare apparently.

"I.....What should I.....unexpected.....No, not yet....."

For some reason, Princess Hilda grumbles and mutters in front of me while I shake my hand in front of her. No good. She doesn't see it.

"And so, Onee-chan makes her appearance ~nanoyo!"

"Uwaa, You startled me!!"

A voice suddenly called out from behind me, and I swiftly drew back.

Karen-Onee-san is raising her right hand and strikes a daunting pose while breathing with excitement.

Is this person (though I say "person", she is a god) capable of teleportation? She simply appears in unexpected places and moments just because she is a god.

"You there! Frankly, the partner of your unrequited love is definitely Touya-kun ~nanone!!"

"Fuoooo!? N-Nh-Nhat s-say you, what are you shying!? Such, such a guess! It is a guess!"

Nee-san pointed her finger at Princess Hilda straightforwardly, and the princess's face exploded in deep red color as if it caught fire. Eh? What's with that reaction? You mean..... is it like that?

No, but..... We only meet twice..... Don't tell me?

I pulled Nee-san who was full of herself and still pointing her finger at Princess Hilda and whispered to her.

"Wa-wait a minute. Don't tell me, are you using some sort of weird power? Like a fall-in-love power or something else from your charm power system?"

"How rude. I don't use anything like that ~noyo. There have already been feelings of love for Touya-kun inside that kid from the start ~noyo.

Furthermore, that was her first love and it's beautifully dazzling"

So you can know even that!? Or is it me who's slow? A first love. Even so, what can I do, about that?

While I was hesitant on what I should say to the fidgeting Princess Hilda, Yae stepped forward before her. Wait, will you please spare me from something like a fight scene !?

"Does Hilda-dono love Touya-dono ~degozaru?"

"Hiee!? No, errrrr! You see that is.....I never have thought that he had a fiancée like Yae-san.....How do I say it?.....that.....I am sorry.....I am annoyance, right....."

"Not at all. I can understand your feelings very well because I was also in the same situation as Hilda-dono ~degozaru"

Princess Hilda who was looking down in shame raised her head to Yae's words.

"When Touya-dono was first engaged to Yumina-dono, I was only a companion. I closed my feelings deep inside my heart without being able to express them. However, Touya-dono and Yumina-dono accepted someone such as me ~degozaru"

"So is that what happened....."

"Therefore, it is alright for Hilda-dono to also become Touya-dono's fiancée like me ~degozaru"

""Come again!?"""

My and Princess Hilda voices overlapped. Wait a minute!? How it came down to this!? Even though I have taken Suu as one just the other day, isn't it too quick for a seventh person!?

"By the way, Touya-dono's fiancée's limit is three more ~degozaru. It has been decided that Touya-dono will have nine brides"

"Nine!?"

Princess Hilda raised her voice due to surprise. You are bringing that story out!? I didn't even accept it!

"You are popular as ever ~nanoyo. Onee-chan is very proud ~noyo"

"Ano-naa!"

I glare at my stupid sister who started whistling on the side. She probably thinks it's too amusing!

"I-i-in other words, the number of people who can become His Majesty's brides are only three more, right!? If I am not going to be a lover or a mistress, then I am on! I will become the seventh bride!"

"Then, I will introduce you to the others later ~degozaru. I'm delighted for being able to get such a reassuring companion ~degozaru"

"Thank you, Yae-san!"

Princess Hilda strongly holds Yae's hand. Wait a minute, a lot of things seem strange! Why are the people over here (especially the girls!) not listening to their partner's opinion!? Do you mean my opinion is disregarded!?

This is bad. This has the same flow as during that time with Yumina and Rue. If this continues like this.....! Hh? Isn't it late to do anything now?

Marriage to these people means being tied to someone they like but it also carries the meaning of deepening the connections between houses. Maybe because of that, a lot have this idea wherein it's fine to raise love after the marriage. This tendency is especially deep in the upper-class society.

Then perhaps this motive is already genuine if it's with a royal family. Of course, they won't want to marry a partner that they don't like though.

The talk develops quickly in front of my eyes. And before I even thought about how I am to stop it, someone stepped up.

"I have heard the story! This marriage, I won't allow it so easily!"

"Ojii-sama!?"

"Another troublesome thing appeared but....."

Sen'ou-heika appeared from somewhere with a "Wait here!" pose while holding his hand up. Are you a Kabuki actor?

(TL: Imagine Jiraiya appearing on Naruto)

Does this flow have a "If you want my granddaughter, you need to defeat me first!"-like drift!? I don't have that intention at all though.....

"I will have you show the resolution since the princess of Knight's Kingdom decided to marry! Fight me!"

Bingo~ Are you serious.....? It can't be helped. Then, shall I lose properly? I currently don't have any intention to take the princess as my bride. Though I think she is cute, I don't know her yet. But despite that, Sen'ou-heika is a gold-ranked adventurer even if he is old already. Will he may be a difficult opponent~?

"Accept this ordeal and show me that you can magnificently beat me! It is a fight, *Hilda*!" (1)

"Yes! Ojii-sama!"

.....Huh?

(1) Thank to kemm-bt, we changed Hi(•)l(•)da(•) to *Hilda* as we missed Furigana that Author started using

Chapter 168: The Bride's Conference and The String Swimsuit

"Then, anyone against the engagement of Touya-san and the Princess Hildegard, the first Princess of the Restia Knight Kingdom, raise their hands"

No one raised their hands towards Yumina's dignified voice.

"Then, we unanimously accept Princess Hildegard as our kindred soul. Both in supporting our husband, becoming good wives and good mothers"

"Thank you very much! I will do my best!"

Princess Hilda lowers her head while shedding tears as the other six fiancées raise an applause. What is this?

There are eight people in this room namely: me, my fiancées and also Princess Hildegard. This is the so-called "Brides Conference", which seems to approve the marriage of Princess Hilda. However, why am I, the related party, sitting in the furthest seat?

"Look here. Are you not going to consider anything that I say no matter how much I say it?"

Yumina sends a short reproachful gaze.

"Does Touya-san dislike Princess Hilda?"

"There is no reason for that"

"Then, are you dissatisfied with her appearance?"

"Not a chance. I think she is pretty"

"Her personality?"

"She's diligent and gives her best effort for the nation. She's a wonderful person"

"Then, is there problem with her birth or homeland?"

"That is not a problem. She's a princess like Yumina and Rue"

"Then, it seems you don't have any objections, do you?"

"Uguu"

Yumina rounds up the questioning while showing a grinning smile. When I

look around, Princess Hilda was looking down with a deep red face. There's definitely no reason to refuse..... But, how do I say it? What is this "If I withdraw here I will never be able to raise my head!" feeling!?

I don't feel like I could win against the seven of them, much less against one of them even at best of times!

Speaking of polygamy, does a husband even have a chance of winning if his wives firmly huddle together!?

".....Is everyone really fine with this?"

"I would have raised my hand a while ago If I didn't"

"... we believe that she is the same as other fiancées in that she came to love Touya-san and that she is an appropriate comrade as well as family"

Elsie and Lindsey spoke. Did you understand that much even though you just met? Was it Yumina's magic eye? I see.

Whenever Yumina invokes her magic eye, it looks like she can see a color of person's essence like some sort of aura. A person with a beautiful heart will have it glittering, and someone with a guilty and malicious heart will have its color be muddy.

It seems she can't see through the essence of what's below subconscious, but I don't understand the details. I was told Yumina also made judgments based on its color and her intuition.

In other words, it's "somehow or another". However, she is able to distinguish "a person who is good though he acts tough" or "a person who is bad though acts as good guy" as an effect of being able to see the essence. Because that Yumina gives her approval, therefore it may be like that, but...

"I think this is a good opportunity. Even if I and Yumina are princesses, we are from the countries in the west. But Hilda is from the east and, after what happened in Yuuron, she is the princess of the largest country. There is nothing scarier than connecting both the West and the East"

Rue has spoken of those things. It somehow feels dangerous.....

If I have strong connections with Restia, then that versatility will definitely be effective in the east somehow, but.....

"But you see....."

"You need to be more clear. Touya should have more confidence. You are
"Popular" like sister-in-law have said!"

"Popular you say....."

"Aren't you popular? Doesn't everyone here love Touya ~ja?"

My face turns red immediately due to what Suu have said. Dangerous! Am I glad or embarrassed!?

Muuuuuuuu..... I don't want that kind of words to decide it after I dragged it that long but.....

While I was glancing towards the princess, her anxious gaze collided with mine. I wish you don't make such a face as if you want to cry.

"..... I understand. If everyone is fine with this..."

Waa! Everyone gather around Princess Hilda and give their blessings. Hearing that girlish high pitched laughter and giggling, I once again have confirmed that I can't win against them at all. I feel a slight uneasiness towards the future.

"Then, Princess Hilda. The battle with Sen'ou-heika however....."

"Please call me Hilda. From now on, I am your fiancée and your first knight"

Princess Hilda.... err, Hilda turns her eyes to me while smiling. Let's keep it a secret that I felt a little shock at her proudful expression.

"I got it. Hilda. Then, regarding the fight with Sen'ou-heika, is there a chance of winning?"

"Honestly, I think it's difficult. The probability of fighting ojii-sama and winning is about 10%, I believe....."

That's low. As I have thought. Is that old man considerably strong? However, even though it is only 10%, it isn't like she can't win at all.

"Well... In addition to that, it wasn't a victory due to my skills. I can say he had bad luck while I had an excellent luck at the same time by chance....."

"In other words, you are saying it was just coincidence ~jana"

"Yes....."

Don't say it so frankly, Suu. Look. Doesn't she look depressed?

I think the opponent may be caught off guard if there's only this difference on the contrary. She may be victorious if she takes advantage of the old man possibly taking her lightly and getting caught.

The weapon of choice for the match is a sword if I'm not mistaken. It's a fight of only using physical abilities without magic.

"Touya-dono, is there anything that can be done ~degozaru?"

"Hmmm. How about doing something like putting the blinding powder at the edge of the sword or planting explosive on the grip of his sword? Or apply plenty of support magic on Hilda's weapon and armor with "Enchant"?"

"T-that kind of winning is a little..... it is against the chivalry spirit"

I guess so. Well, there are a lot of methods though. The important thing is that it's fine as long as you don't use magic directly. Kukuuku.

"You are making an evil face again ~degozaru....."

"You probably have come up with some underhanded way. I don't feel relieved in a sense"

"It doesn't seem like it's something promising....."

Don't say selfish things. I'm not thinking of unfair things.

This time.

=====Scene Change=====

At the same time the match starts, Sen'ou attacks start cornering Hilda. Though she was forced into a defensive fight, she still somehow managed to avoid the incoming wooden sword, parrying, blocking and enduring it.

"What's wrong!? Are your feeling for His Majesty the Sovereign King only that much!?"

"..... I believe in Touya-sama. If I move just as how Touya-sama have said, I will certainly be able to grasp victory!"

"As he have said? Then show me!"

His attacking hand quickens even more. He strikes his granddaughter with a storm of a barrage. Hilda's defenses are gradually collapsing. Even if she stops the attack with her wooden shield, the impact hits her arm. It's natural her movements will become dull if those shocks accumulate.

In the underground training ground, the audiences are only my fiancées and me. I had the escorts wait outside.

Hilda exerts her defenses as much as she can. I have told her to never miss the opponent's opening and aim for a one-shot reversal. After catching the opponent unguarded, she will finish it with one attack.

Hilda pushes his wooden sword aside with her shield and takes distance. She probably used a considerable amount of stamina. Her breath has already become rough.

The old man who is her opponent appears as if he has more room to spare while showing a slight smile.

"Muu..... Strong ~degozaru. While being a sword of the knight, I also feel its violence of wild combat. If we assume that Hilda-dono is weak, then it is strong. It is the sword which pushes through brutally rather than with technique ~degozaru"

"But isn't she withstanding it somehow? I think it is making a pretty good match"

"That's because she is completely devoting herself to defense. However, she can't win in her current state. Her defense will eventually crumble and she will be defeated"

Yae, Elsie, and Rue, the three fighter's faction of our house, analyze the match. However, Rue has also become strong-willed..... It is hard to believe that she's the one trembling during the coup d'état. I guess she must have been shocked at what happened during that time.

Her combat ability doesn't reach to Yae or Elsie by a small margin, but she is still quite skillful right now. Because she is mixing my and Yae's fighting styles, she ends up pretty much being self-taught.

"It's any time now, isn't it? I somewhat hope she doesn't miss the opponent's opening though"

"But will Sen'ou-Heika make an opening? Whatever the lower status she might have, his granddaughter is still his opponent....."

"It's not that he will create it. It will be created... by me"

Eh? After leaving behind Yumina who made a puzzled face, I then concentrate

my magic power. Fortunately, because there is a handy movie lying on the net, and it won't be that difficult.

Sen'Ou starts running while facing Hilda to make a finishing blow. Now!

I float an illusion of the movie about two meters behind Hilda with "Mirage".

"tsu!?"

Sen'ou-Heika opened his eye widely, and his movements stopped instantly. Though she didn't understand what had happened, Hilda who had been waiting for this chance all this time slashed her wooden sword with all her might against Sen'ou-Heika's body.

"Gufuuu!?"

If that was a real sword, his upper and lower body would become two. Sen'ou-heika collapsed on the ground just like that. Good!

"..... Touya-san"

"What?"

"Who was the woman wearing a string-like swimsuit whom I have seen for just a moment behind Hilda-san?"

A gravure Onee-san dressed in a micro bikini while making a lascivious pose was on the screen of my smartphone. I don't know who she is even if you ask, but there is no doubt that it's a quite dangerous swimsuit. She has a tanned skin, captivating eyes, a stylish body with a greatly appealing part of hers.

"I won! I won ~yo! Touya-sama! I— did it!"

I wave my hand in return to Hilda who looks overjoyed. The others also applaud while smiling, but they are also muttering something in a low voice.

"Ah, to be able to create an opening so easily....."

"A man is....."

"...ary that. Onee-chan"

"Didn't she have an extremely large chest....."

"Do you prefer that kind of swimsuit Touya-san?"

"Huh? Where are you going, Touya?"

With the exception of Suu, everyone's eyes are not smiling. Do you think I can

stay here anymore!? It's the Thirty-Six Stratagems!

(TL: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Thirty-Six_Stratagems)!

I jump down from audience seats to the training ground and start approaching Hilda to say "Well done!". Cold gazes pierce my back, but I mustn't turn around.

"Touya-sama! I won! With this, I also can marry Touya-sama for life!"

Why has grandpa made that opening? Hilda doesn't seem to care about that and is rejoicing, as Sen'ou-heika is crouching on the ground while groaning in a low voice next to her.

"You have done well defeating me..... However, for me to stand against the two of you the second and third time, it will be quite an ordeal....."

"What kind of Maou are you?"

I cast recovery magic on Sen'ou-Heika. Really, was this person the King of the Knights Kingdom? Ah, wasn't it said that he was adopted as a son-in-law? He doesn't look like a knight at all.

Did he recover already? Sen'ou-heika stood up and looked at Hilda.

"I fully realized how immature I am. A defeat is a defeat. I have fully grasped your resolution. I permit you to get married. I also don't have any complaints about the brat. From now on, you are not from Restia, so become a knight of Brunhild"

"Ojii-sama....."

"Touya-dono. My granddaughter can only swing a sword, but please take care of her forever"

".....I understand. Please be at ease"

Sen'ou-heika said so and bowed.

".....And then. Where and who was the young girl in a swimsuit from awhile ago!? Once more! Let me burn her figure in my memory even if it's only once more ~ja!"

"Swimsuit?"

"Ah~..... Sen'ou-heika. Since I can't do it here, is it alright to do it in another room?"

"Oh, that's right ~ja! Hilda, go with the other people. It's is better for you to hear different kinds of things from them. Then, Touya-dono, shall we go!?"

While yanking me, Sen'ou-Heika forcefully pulls me away. Isn't he going to complain about the gap that has been created because of the illusion? By any chance, didn't this person intend to lose from the beginning? I was thinking that for some time.

Afterward, I have been made to make a number of similar drawings from the pictures of gravure idols with "Drawing" due to Sen'ou-heika's persuasion. Where does his ero power come from.....?

When I returned to my room exhausted, everyone was waiting except for Suu and Hilda. I was interrogated in different ways. To sum it up, I was asked about my preference in women. Those were questions like "is it better to have bigger breast?", "do I prefer a slender style?", or "do I like erotic appearances like that which was shown?"

At the end, I had to prostrate on the ground and ask for forgiveness since they proposed that 'everyone should wear a micro bikini!'. As expected. I cannot let them do that, the stimulation will be too strong.

.....Was it regrettable?

Chapter 169: The Sacred Sword, and the New Knight King

Several days later, I took everyone from Restia, opened "Gate", and transferred to the Knight Kingdom.

After being guided to the royal palace, I have met with His Majesty the King, the Knight King Reid Yunas Restia in a reception room with the arrangements of Sen'ou-heika and Hilda. Though I was given Sen'ou Heika's guarantees, I must more or less convey the story myself.

I thought it was too quick but later reconsidered that it might be too late to seek a common sense now. He may be a person similar to Sen'ou-Heika and me. Will I become an Ero-jijiji like that as well, I wonder.....?

"Fu~..... Though I say it this late, I have once again verified that Father's pace is crazy. I guess, there is nothing to oppose about regarding Hilda's marriage. I think that his Majesty the Sovereign King is a remarkable person for being able to manage that stubborn tomboy such as Hilda. It can be considered as godsend"

"I also believe so. It is great, Hilda. You will find happiness"

"Congratulations, Hilda. His Majesty the Sovereign King, please take care of my little sister"

Oou..... The King, the Queen and also the Prince are so upright. I was ready to accept that all of them would be weirdos because they have that kind of old man, but they were an exceedingly ordinary family.

No, maybe it is exactly because they have such an old man, they were brought up decently.....? He is a good example of what not to do.

All three of them seem gentle, and I can tell they are nice people. Is his Majesty the King around 50 years old? He has a short dark brown hair and mustache with some gray hair mixing with it, but that mixture adds a silver-gray feeling to it. He was probably popular when he was young.

Is Queen Esther in her mid 40's? She somehow has a heartwarming presence

similar to our Cecil-san. Is it that she a daughter of a prestigious family who remained unchanged despite the age? She feels like a gentle mother.

Hilda's older brother, Prince Reinhardt, is indeed the prince in his the right place if I am to say that, isn't he? He is around 25 years old and has the same blonde hair as Hilda. I guess they got it from their mother. Damn it. He is also handsome man..... Apparently, he already has a fiancée. He's kind to people, strong with sword, and very sharp. Isn't he way perfect as the next king?

"Father, Mother, Brother..... I, definitely will become happy!"

Hilda sheds big tears and jumps into her mother's chest. It's a nice scene, but as a related party, I don't quite calm down. I keep getting delusions like I am tearing up a very close family.

"And, ~jano. Actually, there is a reason why I want to quickly advance the matters. I am thinking of abdicating the throne and I want to hand it over to Reinhardt soon ~ja. However, a slight problem happened to the treasured sword used in the ceremony"

"Treasured sword.....you say?"

"It's a sacred sword handed down in the royal family from the old days. The Sacred Sword Restia. It bestowed the name to the country, and can be called the symbol of our country"

I was lending my ear to Hilda's explanation while a knight came inside the room and respectively handed a long sealed box to the king and left.

As The Knight King recited short spell, the unfastening sound reverberated with a click and the seal on the cover was removed. I heard the sound of the air escaping. Was it a perfectly airtight sealed box? Inside the opened box there was a long sword.

It's a slightly wide broadsword beautifully colored with gold and silver decorations. A magnificently decorated sheath is stored next to it. It's indeed what can be called a "King Sword", isn't it?

"However, this is....."

The reason why I frowned was that such a wonderful sword had been snapped and broken in the middle. This spoiled everything.

"This is the Sacred Sword Restia. Unless it is a great matter like the country being at war or an inheritance ceremony happening, I do not unlock the seal. The last usage was three years ago during Hilda's Knight Conferring Ceremony" "When I have decided to hand over the throne to Reinhardt, I removed the seal after a long time for the sake of the preparations for the ceremony and have a look at it, but it was in this state. I don't know why did it break. And though I don't know why it has happened, I can't perform the ceremony with this. But when I was thinking that it's regrettable and that I would have no choice but to make an imitation for the Restia as the worst case scenario, I have then heard about His Majesty the Sovereign King from Hilda"

The Knight King takes the sword on his waist and holds it in his hand. Ah, it is the sword I gave to Hilda.

"If it's the person who made such a marvelous sword, won't he also be able to repair Restia? That was the reason why I traveled to Brunhild while thinking so ~jaya. Furthermore, I had my own interest in you as well ~no. How much is the caliber of the person whom Hilda was dreaming about? I have thought "let's see him""

"O~, Ojii-sama !?"

"These past months, whenever she started to talk, it was only about His Majesty The Sovereign King of Brunhild. She was sighing and kept on looking at the sword she had received. She has also been thoroughly asking the traveling merchants about Brunhild while being unable to put her mind to rest. Even I would notice it if I saw her like that"

"B-b-brother as well!?"

Giving a sidelong glance to Hilda who is being confused and panicked, I observe the Sacred Sword in front of my eyes. Umm..... It was quite old but..... ancient characters are engraved in the middle of the blade. A crystal-looking jewel is inserted into the grip.

"Can I hold it?"

"I don't mind"

I take the grip of the broken portion and take a good look at it I can feel the remains of a subtle magic power.

"Has this sword given any special bestowal effects?"

"As expected ~jana. Did you see through it just by looking at it? It certainly bestows a recovery effect to the person wielding it. When you hold this sword, minor wounds immediately heals, and even a serious injury will also recover little by little ~ja"

I see. So was this sword given a “healing” effect? However, even that was lost too. Or rather, it has become unable to be triggered.

"The country's best blacksmith has given up too. First, I was told that this sword's material itself is something that he has not been seen before. The effect of recovery has also disappeared, and I have been thinking what it cannot be helped already, but....."

"What do those engraved ancient characters say?"

"Who knows. Nothing about it was handed down by the royal family. It seems to be written in Ancient Paruteno Language though"

Really? Then, should I try confirming it a little?

"Reading/Ancient Paruteno Language"

A Non-Attribute Magic "Reading". If I can distinguish what kind of language it is, the language will be translated automatically...a convenient magic.....

"that bas....."



I drop my shoulder in disappointment. I lost all my power. These letters are a so-called signature. Like a manufacturer carving the verification that it is his/hers work. I read the letters with "Reading" and it was carved there.

[Made by Regina Babylon]

Somehow, no more..... That Professor, had she also been making such things? Was this also fate or something? It's not like I can say anything after this time.

"What's wrong, Touya-sama?"

"Nope..... This sword is, somehow..... It seems to be the work of the same person who made the Frame Gear....."

"What.....!?"

Sen'ou-heika opens his eyes wide. Even I didn't expect to lay my eyes on this sword at this kind of place. Is this truly a "Sacred Sword"? Is it not a "Sex Sword" or something?

(TLC: a pun on word sacred "聖 – sei" sword, to sex "性 – sei" sword)

"I wonder if its magic power had probably been drained out since 5000 or more years passed. You had it sealed all this time, right? Supposedly, It might have turned out damaged bit by bit since it wasn't been able to absorb magic power in the air....."

Since it was cut from the magic power which preserved its condition, might it get cracked in one go from a small cut or something? It probably couldn't absorb a lot magic power from the air in the little time provided by the ceremonies of the country. No wonder this fellow snapped.

It is the same as an animal that cannot get food gradually loses its weight and dies in the end.

"5000 years? H-however, this sword is what the founder of our royal family have used. I didn't think that much time has passed though....."

"How many years ago has it been since Restia was founded?"

"Approximately 300 years ago. It is 291 years if I am to be exact. It has been conveyed that the founder held the Sacred Sword, used its power to end disputes in the area, and founded the Knights Kingdom"

.....I have got it. A certain theory floated in my mind after listening to the prince's explanation. No, it's a conviction rather than a theory. Why? It's because I have met similar situations lots of times!

This is definitely something that fell over from "Warehouse". And so a knight, who is the founder of this nation, picked it up. Then, after he made a country with its power..... It's kinda amazing when I think about it.....

I have been given a lot of trouble because of the clumsiness of the manager of "Warehouse", but this is one of the good examples, I guess. In that end, no matter how excellent an item is, everything depends on how it is being used, right?

"Well, I can repair it since I can understand this much. There's no problem. I will grant it the same magic effect as before"

I cast "Modeling" on the sacred sword and unify the blade. The previous magic has disappeared during this phase, but there's no problem since I will grant it a new recovery effect. Let's also make the magic power stockpile a little bit more. I think it will be okay if they no longer leave it inside the sealed box.

"Oh.....!"

"And, it's done. It's now back to how it was with this"

"I'm thankful. The ceremony can now proceed smoothly thanks to this as well. You have our gratitude!"

His Majesty takes the sacred sword with his right hand, and lightly cut his left arm. There was a red stream flowing with the cut, but the wound was immediately closed. It recovered.

"It definitely is the same as before. Moreover, I felt that the wound cured faster than before"

Huh? Did I by chance bestow a recovery magic of one level higher? If that is so, then the magic power will exhaust faster but..... Well, I think it's better that the amount of recovery increased though.

The sword usually absorbs the magic power from the air and accumulates it in itself to some extent. The sword will then use that magic power to recover its owner and for a self-state preservation. But naturally, the magic power will then be decreased.

Then, the sword will recover the lost magic power by absorbing it from the air. It won't be absorbed from the air in one tick, but will instead be accumulated slowly. If the accumulated amount is exhausted, the recovery effect will end up getting lost.

Despite that it was possible to recover 10 times with "Cure Heal", I thought it

might have made to only using "Mega Heal" no more than 5 times. Though I believe that after increasing the accumulation amount just in case, it can hold more magic power than before.

Well, the former Sacred Sword also wasn't almighty so there shouldn't be a problem. Something like an infinite recovery is impossible.

I felt like I could make something like that, but I guess that impossible. At worst, I may be in an undead-like condition similar to that "Jewel of Immortality" from before. Your life as a human being is over when you have an item that takes custody of your life.

"It may be a little different than before but....."

"No, it's plenty. You have my thanks!"

The King puts the sacred sword in the sheath, and he didn't return it to the box this time. He didn't really have to go that far. I have explained that it won't break if he exposes it to the air for a whole day once a year. Then he told that they will unfasten the seal on the day of country's foundation each year.

After that, I celebrated the enthronement of the new King and I gave him a crystal sword. I have already given them to Sen'ou Heika, His Majesty the King, and Hilda, but I didn't think there was a prince at that time.

I have made the design the same as the Sacred Sword. It's light, sharp, sturdy, and will never break. A perfect sword for battle. It is too sharp that it will be inconvenient to hold matches unless it is against the same crystal sword though. The opponent's sword will definitely break if they exchange blows.

"Well, it's wonderful. In fact, he was feeling envious since everyone had a crystal sword. However, this one is higher than theirs. It's the best congratulatory item"

I'm glad he was pleased. This much is good since this person will also become my brother-in-law.

A few days later, a new King is born in the Knights Kingdom of Restia. During that ceremony, the engagement of the first princess, Princess Hildegarde, and the Sovereign King of Brunhild was also announced. Hilda then became my fiancée both in name and in reality.

Chapter 170: The Guild Branch, and A Tanned Girl

[It's gradually getting colder]

Brunhild is slowly entering winter. Though it's not as much as Elfrau Kingdom that I have previously visited, it seems it is getting cold here to some degree. It appears that the snow will fall as well.

"Are the measures against cold alright?"

"I suppose it will be alright since all the houses in this country have a fireplace. We also have enough firewood. We must only be careful that no fire happens"

Definitely. A fire brigade has made just in case a fire occurs. It also seems possible to extinguish a fire with an object that resembles a pump. As expected of Kousaka-san, he is not careless. The water flowing through the town canal will be useful during firefighting. For now, shall I have them do patrolling after making them wear something like clappers?

(TL: joke, old Japanese firefighter used to wear clappers)

When I went to the training grounds in the courtyard after having finished the paperwork, Hilda and Rebecca-san were exchanging blows there.

Hilda started to live in this castle after she had officially become my fiancée. It may be late at this point, but I thought that we would be separated until we get married though. She is a princess of another country after all even if she is called my fiancée.

Both Rue and Hilda give out a feeling of having already settled down when compared to the situation with Yumina who settled down little by little. Suu is the only one who doesn't live together with me as one would expect, but she comes over to stay twice a week.

She is naturally not sleeping in my room but in Yumina's room. Though it seems she is sleeping with Rene lately as well. I don't mind she's coming to stay overnight, but I wish she stops coming to my room in the mornings of the next day just to wake me up. Waking up twice a week with a full body press is severe.

As I was recalling that pain and sighing, Hilda came running to me after finishing her training with Rebecca-san.

"Touya-sama!"

"Good work, Hilda"



Illust.ねこたま。

I cast [Refresh] and relieves Hilda's fatigue She comes here to train whenever she has time. As expected from the Princess of the Knight's Kingdom.

Hilda wasn't wearing the armor of Restia she had when we had met. She was wearing a light armor of Brunhild instead. Although she is a knight, she isn't the one of our household's knights. The person herself has said that she is not a knight of the country but my own personal knight. Well, it seems people like knight commander Rain-san feel awkward when there is a person excessively close to me.

"Are you going somewhere?"

"I'm going to the adventurers' guild for a little while. I had heard the Brunhild branch has been completed so I am going to check it"

"Anooo, May I also follow you.....?"

"Alright. Let's go together"

It won't be interesting even if you come, but it is not a bad thing to see the town. I hope she gets accustomed to this country as soon as possible.

I leave the castle with Hilda. While heading straight from the castle, the children can be seen running around without caring about the cold.

"He~ika, good day~!"

"Good day, He~ika!"

"Ah, good day. Don't go so far"

""Y~es!""

The children, who gave a cheerful greeting, ran towards the plains. I was thinking about it for some time, but should I make a school in the end? It's better if they are able to read and write, and they may learn various things that can help. Well, there is no teacher to teach though.

Our lack of talented people is the same as ever.

"The children seem to be happy. I am glad"

"Well, we managed to do it somehow without having to borrow the children to work"

Brunhild can be called a relatively wealthy country. There is no hunger, and there is work within its capacity too. However, there is no particular industry. Perhaps, only bicycles? Though I'm testing out different fields such as Agriculture, Industry, and Commerce, although I'm fumbling.

For the agricultural sector, I have requested Flora for the new improvements of species so it's probably better to start from there. But since our house doesn't have that vast lands, it might be difficult with only this much.

We have arrived at our destination, the guild branch, while I was thinking about those things. The Brunhild branch of the adventurer's guild has already begun its operations and a moderate bustle can already be seen.

I put on a hood just in case and went inside. I could hear the crowd making noisy chatter. As usual, there is a crowd in front of the request board. I miss this atmosphere.

Is this the first time Hilda has entered a guild? She's glancing and restlessly looking around.

"Welcome. Is this your first time?"

"Ah, nope. I only came for a little visit. Is the branch chief inside?"

I vaguely answer the Nekomimi Onee-san at the reception desk and secretly show her my guild card. There are only two gold-ranked cards of the guild on this continent.

"Goo..... ! Wawawa..... ! Waiiii、Please wait a minute!"

The Nekomimi Onee-san panicked and ascended the inner stairs while her other colleagues were looking with blank faces. For a moment, I attracted the attention of some people inside the guild, but they have immediately looked at the board again. A few were looking at Hilda, though I think that's natural. She someone who stands out after all.

After a while, the Nekomimi-san come downstairs and speaks to me in a whisper.

"I will g-guide you to the room of the branch chief. You Majesty the s-sovereign k-king!"

After being lead by the Nekomimi-san, I ascended the stairs inside the guild and passed through to the back room. An acquaintance was waiting there.

"Huh? Reshia-san is the branch chief?"

Reshia-san, the elf guild master was there smiling while standing still. If I am not mistaken, she should be one of the guild masters in the western lands. Was she demoted?

"It is different. Each guild master can choose which branch becomes his or her base, but I still haven't decided yet. From there, after I asked to establish one here, I happily took that advantage to get into it"

"Ah, it is like that....."

I take off my hood and sit down on the offered chair. The interior of the room was finished unexpectedly beautifully and different documents and books were lined up on shelves. There was plenty of equipment with magical power placed here and there. Is this what one should expect from the place of the guild master?

"With regards to his Majesty the Sovereign King, I was told that you had been engaged with Princess Restia there. Congratulations"

"Ahhh..... Thank you very much"

"Ah~ thank you very much~!"

Hilda, your voice was loud. She was twisting her body in embarrassment without noticing the intention of my gaze.

"However, I was disturbed by the Yuuron's incident. The guild in that country had been almost destroyed, and the people who somehow managed to survive were severely injured. Nevertheless, rebuilding is being pushed forward because the people calling themselves the adventurers are necessary. Though it will take a considerable time"

It was such a severe blow after all. Though the information about Fureizu had been spread to the other guild masters, it wasn't transmitted to the terminal staffs. Should it have reached them, they might have managed to somehow escape.

"Is there any information about the appearance of Fureizu since then?"
"There have been no reports from any branch up until this moment. Does his majesty believe there is possibility that such a thing may happen again?"
"I don't think I can say that "It's finished with this". Will it be tomorrow? Will it be after one year? Will it be after ten years? I don't know"

Reshia-san drops her eyes and put her hand on her chin as if pondering on something.

"Well, we can only spread a minor warning right now. However, I would really appreciate it if the same thing won't happen in Yuuron again after the rebuilding is finished though"

Reshia-san laughed as if it was a joke. But in fact, there is such possibility and I am keeping an eye on it. It's certain that a rip in the sky there was formed. There is also no guarantee that it will not open some time later.

These guys aim at the living intelligent beings like humans, demihumans, demonkins and so on and so forth. Therefore, there isn't that much damage to the towns themselves, but I don't think anyone will want to live there when they know that there has been a genocide there.

The people of Yuuron become refugees and escape to neighboring countries.

Some of them become thieves and bandits, and there are people who become adventures that earn money by defeating these guys. Everyone's lives were changed with that incident.

"Even now, there are people in Yuuron that are still saying that the grand invasion was the work of His Majesty. However, no one believes it outside of Yuuron. The refugees who have gone to other countries learn of the truth. The more people from outside speak about it, the more the refugees lose their faith to the lies told to them. It's evident that their influence will weaken"

"Well, let them say whatever they want. I have no interest in Yuuron"

"They say things like [Don't forgive that Brunhild!] to gather the support of the people and might do some harassment, you know?"

"I will crush their leader at that time. I am not a saint who keeps quiet when he is being beaten up. I will return gratitude with gratitude, and violence with violence"

I have no choice but to cut the falling sparks. I surely sympathize with Yuuron, but this and that are different cases. Pardon me from getting mixed up with lies coated with a false pretext.

"We will also spread those rumors from the guild just in case. With saying [Though Brunhild Sovereign King is generous, he will not forgive anyone that will harm his country]"

That will be enough, I suppose. There seems to be too much exaggeration included. Well, it's not like I can say anything after all this time but..... That won't do, let's change the subject.

"How is the guild management?"

"Well, it's progressing little by little, I suppose. The employment done through the miscellaneous category of commissions is going smoothly and the ones for the subjugations are also coming by as it is from both directions of Belfast and Regulus. I guess the only problem is that there are no requests coming in for advanced-level people. Though that speaks of how peaceful this place is, don't you agree?"

There are certainly no magic beasts around here, and thieves and bandits are no more here. It may be not satisfactory for those who want to earn money

with a 'bang' in one shot.

And, at that time, I heard voices quarreling from downstairs. Why?

When I asked Reshia-san, she said that it's a daily occurrence and disputes like this happen several times a day.

Come to think of it, I was also involved several times in them.

『Oi, kid. This isn't a place you just go into, you know ~ze?』

『Oh lad, are you not getting carried away because you're accompanied by woman、Ah?』

『This great me will teach you how to be an adventurer. The tuition fee is everything inside your wallet』

.....There weren't any decent ones, all right.

Basically, the guild doesn't interfere in the fights between adventurers. As long as there is no damage to the guild though.

Well, it has been indicated that if someone wants to rampage, those people do it outside. In fact, having anticipated that, the guild was built on a spacious street in front of it.

Eventually, the sound of footsteps from people going outside could be heard. Did people from the guild drive them out?

"Oya, it seems they are continuing outside"

Reshia-san mutters that while overlooking the street from her room window.

Ah, I have also been said "Let's go outside!". I guess by saying that, they planned to shame me in front of the general public rather than causing an annoyance to the guild. Naturally, they ended up shaming themselves on the contrary.

"Muu. Aren't they ashamed of having that many people against one person? Moreover, isn't his opponent a woman?"

Was she getting interested? Hilda looks outside the window next to Reshia-san.

"However, the ability of the woman seems to be higher than her opponents.

Look, she has done them by herself"

"Definitely. It seems she is using an ax from the weapons on her waist, but she should have a considerable strength if she can handle that. Her movements are good too. Rather than calling those as trained movements, they seem to be naturally acquired. However, that person has a strange appearance"

"If I'm not mistaken, that is the traditional clothes of one of the tribes living in that Great Forest Sea. Namely, the Rauri tribe. I never have thought I will ever see it in a place like this"

Eh? I am kinda bothered with what they have said but..... Huh? By Rauri tribe, If I am not mistaken.....

When I tried to peek outside from a different window, I saw four men crawling on the ground and the figure of a brown-skinned girl fighting against a fifth person.

Wai! That kid!?

"Touya-sama?"

While catching Hilda's voice from my back, I jump out from the room, pass through the reception desk on the ground floor and go outside. At exactly the same time, the girl's brilliant kick exploded on the side of the man's face.

'Oooo~'. Cheers rose from the surrounding onlookers. The girl glances at the five men, who seem to be exhausted and exhales once.

Then her eyes looks at me who has come out from the guild. Ah, it's her after all. This kid is the granddaughter of the matriarch and the one who bit me back then after the accident in the Great Forest Sea.....If am not mistaken, wasn't her name Pam?

".....Found you"

Eh? Huh? Did she talk just now? If I am not mistaken that kid wasn't supposed to be able to speak the common language, was she?



Daa! Pam suddenly ran and hugged me. Despite falling due to the momentum, she rubbed her cheek against mine while we were down.

Wa-wait! This girl is wearing something similar to a mantle, but below that is just a chest wrap and a loincloth! This, it is hitting me in different ways! They

are big as ever!

"W-w-w-w-what are you doing!?"

I look towards the guild's entrance while I'm still on the ground, and I see that Hilda has a deep red face while she's trembling all over. Ah, it has a dangerous atmosphere somehow. Un, I can understand it. I have experienced it several times after all.

"Hey, you! Get away from Touya-sama!"

"What are you? This one is Pam's. Pam will birth a child of this guy"

"Na-nan-an-a-a-n-a!?"

Hilda reddens even further and flatters.

It's developing too fast, I can't understand anything. I demand an explanation!

Chapter 171: The Pruning Ceremony, and a proposal

"This is something I cannot allow"

"Why? If a child born between Pam and Touya is a girl, our tribe will raise her. It is fine if you guys raise him if it is boy"

Yumina did nothing but sigh indicating "it is out of a question".

"It is unfortunate, but you don't have a qualification to become Touya-san's bride. You should leave"

"Pam doesn't plan to be a bride. Just making a child is fine. If it is Touya's child, she will surely become the queen which will rule the forest sea"

Should I say that her intentions are simple? This discussion has been repeating itself since a little while ago. It seems Pam has left the Great Forest Sea in order to look for me. Since she said that she had also learned the common language during her trip, her head may be quite good too.

After the uproar in the guild, [Bride Conference] was suddenly conducted once more. The theme is apparently [Should we accept Pam or not?].

"Pam doesn't understand why you guys are objecting"

"It's up to you whether you want to have a child or not. However, If it is going to be Touya-san's child, it is a different story. You choose your tribe's prosperity rather than Touya-san's happiness. I do not want for such a person to bear Touya-san's child"

Being glared at by the younger Yumina, Pam was a bit overpowered. I am also getting scared, to be honest.....

"...To say the least, the child doesn't have to be Touya-san's, right? It shouldn't have to if it is about making a child for the purpose of its combat abilities. You can just make a child with another strong man, can't you?"

Lindsey has unleashed angry words as well. It seems she is also in the opposition like Yumina.

"Pam cannot do this. Pam has already placed [Bite of Oath] on Touya. Touya

belongs to Pam"

"What a selfish thing. There is no way Touya-sama will recognize such a thing!"

Hilda yells while rising from her chair. It seems like what Pam calls [Bite of Oath] is that biting she did that time. In short terms, it is like a mark saying [This man is mine, so do not make a move on him as you like].

Their culture can be surmised as the one which doesn't consider something like the circumstances of men, seeing how female-dominance is evident in all aspects. I guess, it is like Amazones.....

"To begin with, why do you want Touya-dono's child ~degozaru? No matter from which point I look at it, it feels like there is some reason ~degozaru"

When Yae asks Pam, the latter bits her lips, frowns, and mutters in a low voice.

"..... We are a battle tribe. But unlike the other tribes, we don't attack others on our own apart from when it is time to make a child. We are only fighting to the bitter end in order to protect our village. However, the attacks from other tribes have been growing more and more severe in the recent years. More and more strong blood is needed for us to keep that standpoint in the Grand Forest Sea. As well as to win during [Pruning Ceremony]"

"Pruning Ceremony? What's that ~ja?"

Suu titles her head to the side and asks further. [Pruning] is that action, I suppose. It is when you make sure to cut off some parts or the branches and leaves from the trees, trim its shape. All in order to make fruits to grow easier.

"[Pruning Ceremony] is a fight between the tribes living in the Grand Forest Sea. Once a decade, the people who represent their tribes decide the superiority of the tribes in the battles. The winning tribe will stand above all other tribes as [Tribe of Tree King] and is able to establish one law in the Grand Forest Sea"

Once a decade~. Oh well, I somehow get it for some reason. In short, the winner can establish a rule that is disadvantageous to the tribes who lost.

"Saying it is a "law", is anything allowed? How about something like [That tribe must get out from the Great Forest Sea] for example?"

Elsie asked the same thing I wanted to hear. Can't something like [Tribe "A" will be absolutely obedient to Tribe "B"] be set if you can introduce whatever rule you want? No, something like [Let's make one hundred laws]..... It can't be like that, right?

It is a stupid question that is often raised in a manga-like situation such as [I will grant you only one wish~]. The response [A wish to increase the number of wish is not allowed] is probably standard as well.

"Only if it is recognized by Great Tree Deity. It is often accepted as long as tribe's pride is not sullied"

"Great Tree Deity?"

"It is the guardian god of the Great Forest Sea. An existence which grants us the blessings of the spirits and bestows divine protection to all tribes"

Is it something like a Sacred Tree? However, you say "spirits". Is it similar to the spirit of darkness that rampaged in Ramisshu? The spirit of the tree.....or is it a spirit of the forest? Is there a spirit of forest in the Great Forest Sea?

Essentially, it is said that there are a lot of the so-called "spirits" that are gentle. In Ramisshu case, the spirit must have rampaged due to the grudge of being trapped for a long time. It probably piled up negative feelings because it had fused with Ramirez who summoned it as well.

The people of the Great Forest Sea worship the Great Tree Deity and live their lives in accordance with the guidance of the spirits. That way is similar to Ramisshu in a sense.

"Our tribe has been losing in [Pruning Ceremony] for more than 70 years already. Even the other tribes begin to take in a new blood. Pam and Touya child will definitely win through [Pruning Ceremony] and restore our tribe's glory. If things stay as they are, Balum tribe will completely destroy our Rauri tribe"

"Balum tribe..... are they another tribe that lives in the Great Forest Sea?"

"It is a tribe proclaiming that "A woman should follow a man". They kidnap women from the other tribes and have them give birth to children. The tribe then raise a child as warrior in case it is a boy and drive out the mother with her child in case it is a girl"

It is not that different from Rauri tribe..... Just the roles of the men and women are reversed. Though I think that neither is right.

It seems there is enmity between that male dominant tribe, Balum tribe, and the female dominant tribe, Rauri tribe. I guess, there is no reason for them to have a peaceful relationship.

Apparently, both of these tribes have the power to oppose each other, but Rauri tribe suffered huge damage due to that Spider-type Fureizu that had appeared in the Great Forest Sea. Especially, it was quite a loss since the warriors who should have represented the tribe had died. I say it wouldn't be a strange situation if Balum tribe would attack them anytime due to that.

"We already given up on the upcoming [Pruning Ceremony]. We only hope that Balum tribe don't win and become [Tribe of Tree King]. However, the child of Pam and Touya will surely win during the next [Pruning Ceremony], thus making our Rauri tribe [Tribe of Tree King]"

It is a far-reaching story. Either way, I cannot accept Pam in the current circumstances. I have no reason to have her give birth to my daughter for the sake of having her fight such battle.

"When is the next [Pruning Ceremony] ?"

"It is in one month. Though we plan to participate because the tribe will be shamed if we surrender without fighting, we will most likely lose. Pam can't participate because Pam is already here. [Pruning Ceremony] is a battle of 5 champions from among each tribe. You may die if you are unlucky"

It is dangerous. From what I heard, it seems the matches follow some tentative rules. It resembles a five-versus-five tournament very much. I say it sounds like [Great Forest Sea War Games] more and more.

"....."

"Yumina-san?"

Rue calls out to Yumina who seems to be lost in thoughts.

"Can you predict what kind of law Balum tribe will add in case they win the so-called [Pruning Ceremony] ?"

"It will likely be a law that drives away Rauri tribe to the outskirts of the Great

Forest Sea. To the places where there are few hunting grounds and where it is difficult to live. In that case, this will lead to our slow ruination without even damaging their tribe's pride. They will also obtain the hunting grounds which originally belonged to Rauri tribe"

"Then, what kind of law will Rauri tribe want if you win on the contrary?"

"It is conversely to drive away the Balum tribe to the outskirts of the Great Forest Sea"

What can I say..... They are both the same. I think it is better if they can get along with each other. With gender equality.These days, I came to think deeply about gender equality..... Inside the family in particular.

"Does that mean that the reason why you are desiring a child from Touya-san is for the sake of driving away that Balum tribe?"

"It is not the only purpose, but you are not wrong for the most part"

".....I understand. Let's make a deal then. We will make Rauri tribe win this [Pruning Ceremony] and lead your tribe to the title of [Tribe of Tree King]. On the other hand, I will ask you to give up on Touya-san"

Eh!? Are you serious? Are you going to participate in this [Great Forest Sea War Games] Oh well, I would like to help Pam somehow too, but please excuse me from something like a child. Though that may be the quickest solution.

"..... Can you win?"

"Who knows. However, I think it is better than losing like this and bet on the next decade"

Yumina returns a slight smile. That girl is putting out more intensity. I am sure of it.

Or rather, speaking of the decade, my child will only be 9 years old by that time. Have you thought whether it is a good idea to let such child participate in a war game?

"..... Let it be your way. If you really can win, it is the best Pam can ask for. If it is not good as Pam expects of it, Pam will make a child with Touya at that time"

"I don't think it will come down to this"

Yumina and Pam smile at each other. What is this, it looks frightening.

It seems that if Yumina and the girls temporarily enter the Rauri tribe, they will be recognized as helpers of some sort. Though I feel it is kinda strange. It is like having eight foreign helpers in baseball. It will have an impression of the team being “a helper team” rather than “original team”.

"Yumina-dono, Are you serious ~degozaru?"

"I think this is the best common ground. Does everybody agree with this?"

I looked at everyone around but no one opposed. Well, honestly saying, even I had a desire to object. I didn't want everybody to get injured after all. However, if I objected, then...

"Do you want to make a child with Pam that much? I see. Is it about her huge breasts? Is it because you like big breasts?"

(TL: he imagine questions in his mind)

I have a feeling some people would fall into the dark side, so I couldn't express my mind at all. There is a lot of women in our house that has inferiority complex after all..... Though I think they are still in their growth period.

In term of size, is it like this: Yae > Hilda > > Lindsey > Elsie > Rue > Yumina > Suu? And that Pam is above even Yae.

They may eventually get some strange medicine produced by Flora. But on the contrary, I will likely to draw back if Yumina suddenly gets big breasts.....

"We will represent Rauri tribe, win through [Pruning Ceremony] and gain the title [Tribe of Tree King]. Though we are limited with the members present here ~degozaru"

"I guess so. If we assume that Pam will come forth as the representative, the others ones will be me, Yae, Hilda, and Rue. Is that right?"

Certainly, it is as Elise said. Yumina and Lindsey are not suited for hand-to-hand combat. Both are rear guards in a category of long-range shooting. Suu doesn't have much fighting power.

(TL: Suu can summon!!)

Even so, she seems to be learning hand-to-hand skills and throwing skills from Lapis-san and Cecil-san along with Rene once in awhile. It seems that she is interested in maids. Does Suu want to become a maid?

In any case, is the first phase done for now seeing that the plan has seemingly been decided upon? Why on earth I couldn't say a word during the meeting even though I am the related party.....?

"Hey, Yumina-ane-sama, I have one question, but....."

"What is it?"

Suu folds her arms and tilts her neck in puzzlement while looking at Yumina.

"Will we who are not going to fight also go to this [Pruning Ceremony] as well?"

"I guess so. You will have to cheer as people of Rauri tribe during that time only though. Also, a substituted person may be needed in case something happens too"

"Will Touya go too?"

"He is the most concerned person after all. I wish he would cheer for everyone after all. it will also be reassuring for him to be around in case something happens, right?"

I certainly don't plan to leave everything to them. Naturally, I plan to cheer for them as well as to take the initiative and move if something bad happens. That's because I don't know what can happen. I would like to think there will be no sabotage.

"Uun.....However, Touya is a man ~ja?"

[Ah]

Every one leaked out their voice. I included. That's right. If one to call himself from Rauri tribe, it will be strange if it is a man who does it. At the time something happens, I will likely be told [Outsiders should be silent] and I won't be able to do anything unless I am able to name myself as Rauri tribe. Eh, what should I do?

"...Crossdressing, I guess?"

"Wait a minute! I firmly object!"

I opened my mouth for the first time towards Lindsey's absent-minded muttering.

Chapter 172: The Deity Tree Region and the Start of the Game

"Pruning Ceremony".

All the tribes that live in the Great Forest Sea gather under the sacred tree called the Great Deity Tree. It's said that they compete for bravery under the protection of the spirit of the big tree..... Well, it's definitely something that can be called "The Great Forest Sea War Games".

We are participating in this as people from the Rauri tribe and aiming at "Tribe of Tree King" by winning in it.

Honestly, I think there is no need to go that far, but otherwise, Pam will continue following me behind. Well, I guess it's alright since "Pruning Ceremony" itself seems to last for three days only. Elsie and Hilda are eager to fight as well. They are the types that like to test their skills. Also, there is the self-interest of being able to have ties with "Tribe of Tree King" controlling the other tribes of Great Forest Sea if things go well.

Ah, and besides that, I have asked the others to excuse myself from cross-dressing for the time being. It should be enough to only change my outer appearance with "Mirage" to resemble a woman. I may be noticed if someone touches me, and Lindsey clung on to that. But I don't plan on wearing traditional clothes of Rauri tribe that have a high degree of exposure, to begin with!

I have already sent Pam to the village of the Rauri tribe with "Gate".

And since I had thought that the having a conversation would probably be inconvenient, I learned the no-attribute magic "Translation". In short, it's a translation magic. It looks like the words the other side say will be audible in our language, and vice-versa.

This magic may be close to the telepathic conversation between me, Kohaku and the rest.

For the time being Pam, Yae, Elsie, Hilda, Rue are the representative

members. I have thought that there would have to be a substitution in the cases if someone gets injured or something, but it seems they need to win with only the five of them.

Although it would be good if I was allowed to participate, it was intensely opposed by the people of Rauri tribe including Pam. Apparently, it is impossible for the Rauri tribe to send out a man as representative in the sacred "Pruning Ceremony". Even if I would be recognized as a helper, it could apparently be overturned.

I wonder if it goes like "A man should shut up and watch". I somehow want to terrifically run away. I became a little envious of Balum tribe for a moment.

Well, the one month has passed with this and that.

We arrived at the root of Great Deity Tree to carry out "Pruning Ceremony".

"Fuaaaaaaaa....."

It is a definitely a huge tree..... My impressions after seeing the Great Deity Tree can be summed up to that one word.

What the heck? Does its diameter reach some dozens of meters? Lush and thick green leaves and branches are growing in all directions from that dramatically thick trunk. Its height may not be that comparable to the size of its trunk. Its shape is like an extremely short part cut from a parasol grip.

Sunlight comes in between branches and leaves, illuminating the ground line in fairy-tale. And various tribes living in the Great Forest Sea assemble within that light.

There are stumps with different sizes at the root of the great tree deity, in which even the smallest ones are 20 meters in diameter. I have heard that they are the parts of the Great Deity Tree and stages for one-on-one battles.

The total number of tribes living in the Great Forest Sea is approximately 240. From among them, the Jaja tribe that is also called the [Referee Tribe] seems to hold this [Pruning Ceremony]. They manage this [Pruning Ceremony] for many

ages and are the only tribe allowed by the spirits to live at the root of the great tree deity, [Deity Tree region]. But instead, they are not allowed to participate in [Pruning Ceremony]. Apparently, they are like Shinto priests who convey to the tribes the will of the spirits.

"However, there are various tribes....."

I survey the surrounding tribes restlessly. There are large-built tribes, small-built tribes, tribes with strange decorations on their heads, tribes with jingling bracelets. It feels out of place but there are also tribes that have a mustache that is terribly grown for some reason, and tribes that are wrapped entirely in green robes while wearing hoods.

Though there are some exceptions, the degree of exposure for both men and women is generally high. As expected, there was no one that brought it all out, but there were some tribes that had so little clothing that I was troubled on where to look.

"If that's how it is, we won't stand out, so I feel slightly relieved
~degozaru....."

"Touya-sama? Wouldn't it be better for you not to stare at women that much? It will look strange since your outer appearance is of the same sex"

I felt a little thorn from what Rue had said, so I deliberately forced a cough while straightening my sitting posture.

Everyone around had the appearance of the Rauri tribe. In short, their chests were covered in wraps and they were wearing loincloths. As expected, are they embarrassed by that appearance? They are wearing a short poncho-like clothing on top and a pareo-like clothing coiled around their waists at the bottom.

It's only I who have disguised my appearance as a woman of the Rauri tribe with [Mirage]. To make it difficult to tell it even if I'm touched, I'm wearing a short-sleeved shirt and a short-pants just in case. If ever my arm to be caught, it would feel terrible if there is a feeling of clothes present.

Suu is also wearing Rauri tribe-style clothing. She looks cute that way, but I don't feel any sex appeal from her. However, my heart is pounding very vividly

when I look at everyone else's figure making me turn my eyes the other way.

Well, the surrounding tribes are even more extreme, so I can't say anything.

"Is there reason why we have to fight on top of that stump?"

"That's right. The divine protection of the spirits are at work there, and all attacks that can take someone's life are reduced in there. For example. If someone seriously tries to inflict fatal damage at the head, the opponent will be stunned. This is because it's an attack that can cause death"

I don't know what kind of magic it is, but it certainly looks like the power of the spirits. Is it perhaps similar to my "Shield", I wonder. Though It's probably different since it allows the non-fatal damage to be inflicted. It's perhaps similar to a 1HP stop feature in games.

Basically, the death is unlikely to happen, but I cannot omit that it is not like there are zero cases of dying from some other causes like collapsing from the impact. The stump is approximately 2 meters above the ground. The participants will lose due to being out-of-bounds if they fall from there, and it's possible for them to die if they fall badly on a vital spot.

"The magic is also unusable on it, isn't it?"

"Ah. That's also nullified. And also, it's also better not to use small fire in here. You will be driven from the Deity Tree region and the referee tribe will be keeping their eyes on you"

So the magic is also nullified. That means Elsie's "Boost" can't be used up there. Everyone has normal weapons this time since magically enchanted weapons are also being nullified.

But I guess I can understand why fire is prohibited. It may become outrageous if ever it becomes a forest fire. It also looks there is a large clear stream just outside of the Deity Tree region, so the people will prepare meals on there.

The tribe's comrades who have come to cheer for the participants can watch the fights from the audience seats prepared on the tops of other trees.

"When will the match begin?"

"It will start soon. It will be over for today once we win against three other tribes. We can advance to the fight tomorrow with that"

Well, approximately 240 tribes will fight three times..... will this round decrease their number to about 30 tribes? I wonder if today's matches can be called the preliminaries, while tomorrow ones will be the final selection.
(TL: 240/2, 120/2, 60/2; you are out once you lose a game)

The bell echoed from somewhere with a 'sharinn' sound. The hustle and bustle in the vicinity disappeared, and a resonant voice went up.

"It's time. Everyone besides the participants will leave this place. Everything else will be left to the guidance of the spirits"

A man from the [Referee's tribe] wearing a white kantoui-like (貫頭衣) traditional costume dignifiedly announces so. At the same time, the people from the other tribes turned towards the audience seats that had become like tree houses, suspension bridges built in between the trees or just on top of the branches of the surrounding trees in groups.

Shall we go as well?

"Then everyone, do your best and make sure not to overdo it"

"I understand~ de gozaru"

"It's all right"

"Please leave it to us!"

"I will do my best"

"Let's go!"

Yae, Elsie, Hilda, and Rue walk toward the stump that have become the stages of the fight while following Pam.

We also moved to the audience seats established on top of the tree. After climbing the stairs attached to the side of the tree which is some meters in diameter, we arrived at the place with a good view.

"I am somehow getting excited"

Suu bends on the handrail and gazes at the competition site below her. The audience of this huge tree is comprised by everyone from the Rauri tribe.

A cheering squad is about 50 people in total, but I honestly find it difficult to be here since I am the only man here. Even though the people of the Rauri tribe see me as a woman, they also know that I am really a man. Uumu, if I think

about it carefully, wouldn't it probably be better if I became transparent with [Invisible]?

But in that case, it will be difficult to intervene if ever an emergency happens. It's better to be called part of the [Rauri tribe] even if it's troublesome.

"...Ah, please look that, Touya-san"

"Oh?"

In the location Lindsey points at, rays of sunlight pass through the trees like a spotlight and focus to each of the tribe's representatives. Before long, it slowly begins to move, leading each representative to their own stages.

When I look above to the branches in surprise, both the branches and leaves deform freely to control the sunlight coming in between them. Are you serious.....? Does this so-called Great Deity Tree have a will of its own? Will those lights decide who will fight who?

Before I could even think of that, the battles started right away. So, there seems to be no opening ceremony present.

"Do all members fight in a one-on-one format?"

"It is said that should the first three people win, the remnant two people don't have to fight"

In other words, does that mean that even if just one of the warriors is great, if the other four people are no good, the tribe will lose the moment the three of those are defeated? If it was a knockout tournament, it should have been possible for a single person to defeat five people by himself.

It's a loss whether it is due to combat disability or by surrender. Well, it will also be a loss if you fall from the stage. There is no basically foul play, and should a person who considerably defiles the pride of the tribe living in the Great Forest Sea will be disqualified.

While I'm watching a match in a different stage, I see a large man brandishes an ax and cuts open the head of his enemy Though It looked like that, the head was never crushed in reality. His opponent just slowly fell on the spot.

I wonder if this is that divine protection of spirits. It becomes clear to me that not all of the damage is prevented because there are countless wounds and

bruises on the body of the defeated opponent. Is it invoked when someone is struck by a fatal blow like it has been said? His opponent seems to have fainted completely.

"Ah, It looks like the match for the Rauri tribe will start soon"

Yumina points at a location that's hard to see from here, so I project a picture of the stage in the air with [Mirage] and [Long Sense].

Voices of admiration leak out from the other people from the Rauri tribe. As expected. Unless you are on the stage, the magic seems to be usable.

I change the projection to a screen with a size big enough to be able to watch the match with everyone. It appears the Rue is the first to fight.

Her opponent is a tall man with an indentured lance in his hand. Is there a height difference of about 40 centimeters between Rue and him? Rue is confronting him with 30 centimeter short swords in each hand.

"Begin!"

As the white clothed referee swings down his hand, Rue moves rushing to the bust of the spearman in a straight line. In response to that, the man thrusts his spear in a skewer-like motion, but it is being repelled by Rue's sword and directed the other way.

Rue, who is approaching her opponent as if she's sliding, waved her left hand and landed it on the man's flank.

Doo~! A dull sound is heard and a spearman crumbles on the spot. Not even a minute has passed.

Uooooooooooooooooo! Cheers of joy from every one of the Rarui tribe raged behind me.

It is not like Rue trained with Yae or me just for show. From her point of view, that level of movement is easy to see through naturally.

In the first place, dual sword users are quick-witted. They confuse their opponent with their movements and unleash attacks from different angles. They don't have the heavy might of axes or long swords, but they have swordsmanship to attack with such handling.

That said, it's not like they can't kill their opponent with a single blow. It's possible if they aim for the vital spots. Naturally, accuracy is nevertheless also required in addition to them being agile.

Rue looks towards here and greatly waves her hand.

In this way, the curtain of our battle came down.



Chapter 173: Balum tribe, and the Spirit of the Great Tree

We easily won the first day and were able to advance to the next round after getting three victories. Or rather, with the exception of the vanguard Rue, the spearhead Elsie, and the center Yae no one else had fought. All of the matches were ended with three wins. The so-called victories based on straight wins.

As far as I could see, we were blessed with the opponents since those weren't that great.

"I hope we can keep this rhythm and win tomorrow as well"

I muttered while watching the sunset which brought the day to a close. This is the forest near the river away from the Deity Tree region. All the matches have ended, and everyone starts preparing the meals.

The tribes who lost their matches came back to this forest as well and began to cook their own meals. I guess they are going to watch the matches till the end since they have already come here.

(TL: Wow Touya didn't you forget about the rule?? they want to see the rule as it may affect them)

We could have returned to the castle and have our meals there, but we decided to participate in partaking the meal with Rauri tribe since they already went hunting the prey for us.

I take out a barbecue set from [Storage], ignite the charcoal and prepare it for cooking. Then I take out the seasoning like salt and pepper, as well as the sauce.

Eventually, the Rauri tribespeople came back after catching the prey that looked like rabbits and turtle doves. Because the only ones allowed to hunt here when it is not the time of [Pruning Ceremony] are [Referee tribe], there seems to be a lot of prey. Naturally, a large quantity of prey is hunted during these three days, but it seems to return to its original numbers by the next [Pruning Ceremony].

"Having such cooking which is overflowed with rural beauty is nice once in a

while, don't you think so?"

"You are right~ Ah, Touya-san, this one is burning"

Yumina is gallantly assisting me with grilling. Given that both of us look like women when watched from the third person's point of view, I hope we are not seen like we have a strange relationship.

Since the nutrition based solely on meat is incomplete, I have taken out the vegetables such as pumpkins, onions and green pepper from [Storage]. After simply cutting them, I skewer them together with the meat and then eat it with homemade BBQ sauce. Delicious.

"Something like this is a first for me, but it looks enjoyable"

Rue smiles while apportioning the meat on her saucer. It should be unusual for her who has lived her life as the Princess of Regulus. I am delighted she is enjoying herself.

As for me, however, I can't calm down with there are only women being around me after all. The level is a bit too high for me to enjoy it. Though if it was Sen'Ou-heika of Restia, he would likely to happily jump in.

With that said, I heard a voice making a racket behind me. When I turned around, I saw muscular men fighting each other. So it is a quarrel. How irritating. Do that in some other place or something.

"This many tribes have gathered, so one or two quarrels is a daily occurrence"

Having said it, Pam bites into the spit-roasted meat. Accidentally speaking, those who participate at [Pruning Ceremony] must not do anything if anything happens. Because of that, there is such a rule stating that the companions from the fellow tribes will tidy up the occurring disputes. Then, it means that the ones fighting there are not the contestants. Well, it doesn't matter anyway.

"What is that? I did think there are some weird people here. So they are from the Rauri tribe, right?"

Passing next to the quarreling people, other muscular men have come here. Their upper bodies resemble an inverted triangle tempered with brawny muscles. On top of that, their scars and tattoos running along their bodies increase their overwhelming presence even more. In addition to that, their

heads are shaved and look like mohawks. The evilest style ever.

"What business you have, Balum tribe"

Pam points her glare at the coming men while chewing meat. Are those guys the Balum tribe?

Certainly, they are looking at everyone here with eyes full of superiority. There are also some guys who are smirking and laughing. I decided in my heart to definitely not become the same as those guys.

"We had considered that you wouldn't show up at [Pruning Ceremony] this time. Weren't the prominent warriors of the village done in by the likes of some magic beast as I heard? What a pathetic thing. As one could expect of women, after all"

"Bastard..... Are you insulting the fallen warriors?"

Following Pam, the other Rauri tribespeople lower their bodies a little. They do it in a way to be able to switch to battle at any time. Having guessed their intentions, Balum tribe also nimbly assumed guard stances. An ambivalent atmosphere gathers between the both sides.

"I don't have such an intention in particular. I simply think that we of the Balum tribe would have caught such a magic beast with a moment's delay"

"Ha. Not knowing anything is a foolishness by itself. Even if you from the Balum tribe were grouped up, you wouldn't be able to match that crystal magic beast. You would end up annihilated to the last one of you "

"What did you say!"

Now they are exchanging verbal insults. Thumbs are flying here and there. They are exactly like cats and dogs, aren't they?

"Quit messing around! There is no way the Balum tribe wouldn't take it down if the Rauri tribe could defeat it!"

"Although it is Regrettable, it wasn't us who had defeated that crystal magic beast. It was Touya who is sitting there"

"Ah!?"

Oi-oi. Do not wave at me. The gazes of the Balum tribe turned towards me at once.

"This woman?"

A man from the Balum tribe came up to me. This man whose height is probably around 190 cm looks down on me with an impolite scrutinizing gaze. Eventually, he expressed a disgusting smile.

"Aren't you quite a good woman? I like you!"

"I feel gross!"

"What did you say!?"

I instinctively let out my voice. But it can't be helped, right!? When you look at it from my view of point, a muscular man says something like that to me!! Willies are running through my entire body!!

"This bitch!"

The angry man extends his hand towards me and tries to catch my arm.

"Don't touch me!"

"Guboue!?"

I kicked the man's abdomen, blowing him a few meters away. There is no way I could adjust the power. I felt the danger towards my body! In a different meaning!

"This bastard!"

"Get her!"

I nimbly dodge the Balum tribesmen who are attacking all at once and send them flying one by one with a kick. I don't want to strike them with my hands. Since I am disgusted to even touch them!

I wonder what is it, it is scary to be glared by such muscular men in a sexual meaning. It doesn't even matter whether you are a man or a woman!

"This bitch..... Catch her with everyone!"

[Uoooooooooooooooo!!]

A wave of muscles is coming. Ueee!!

"Shield!"

[Guuuuu!?!]

I stop them with an invisible shield and the men who were jumping here fall to the ground just like that. Ah~ it was disgusting.

"Balum tribe is not that big of a deal. Aren't you in this state with just Touya?"
"Dam....."

Pam is laughing at the remaining Balum tribesmen like she is provoking them.
Oi~, Do not agitate them!

The remaining tribesmen had deeply red angry faces. They were done by only one woman (on the outward appearance). So there is no way they won't get angry as they are from the tribe where man is the dominating one.

"Take those battered guys and quickly leave. It will be a bother if some incapable men stay here"

I totally agree with Pam on that. I have a feeling I will have a macho phobia if it stays like this.

"Damn it, we will remember this!"

Balum tribe left while dragging along the collapsed men.

Uu, that was unpleasant. Those eyes of the ill-breed men felt disgusting that much. Let's be careful so that I do not turn out like that myself.

"Were those the Balum tribe? They didn't seem that great"
"There were no contestants among them. Those fellows are underlings even among the Balum tribe. They are just brats who haven't grown up yet"

Pam answered Elsie as such, but I couldn't believe my ears. If I am not mistaken, don't they treat those who turn 15 years old as adults in the Great Forest Sea!? Eh, even though they look like that, are those guys younger than me!? They looked like terrifyingly rough ossans!?

That's impossible..... There is no way they are junior high school students..... What kind of training are they doing? I somehow lost my appetite.....

After the barbecue ends, several people are going to be on the lookout and retire to sleep in turns.

Though it is to watch out for the forest beasts, it will also serve as protection from the surprise attacks of the other tribes as well. Naturally, it is not like all tribes will try to do something like that, but some of them apparently do such a thing silently as well.

We could return to the castle with [Gate] by ourselves, but disregarding this matter after hearing about it would leave a bad aftertaste.

I have set up [Shield] barrier around us and decided to sleep in turns with several people. That's because [Shield] is only a temporary preventive measure. The five participants have been exempted from being on the lookout since we can't have them be fatigued tomorrow. So we have them rest till the morning. Ah, even if Suu was up, it would be meaningless, so we let her sleep as well.

Right now, several of the Rauri tribe enclosed the bursting bonfire and paid attention to the surroundings.

Next to them, Lindsey and Yumina were making quiet sleeping sounds while being wrapped in blankets after having stood guard till some time ago.

Suddenly, I felt a queer presence. This feeling.....

I stood up and walked to the depths of the forest. The Rauri tribespeople who were standing on the watch together with me turned their eyes towards me for only a moment. It seems they thought it was a toilet and didn't particularly say anything.

Having advanced deeper and deeper into the dark forest, I understood that presence was gradually getting stronger. There is no mistake, this is the same as Ramisshu.....

I stopped at an open space deep in the forest.

It exists. Here. In this place.

"Can you hear my voice?"

The moonlight began to shine on me who was standing in the darkness, and all trees in the vicinity were stirred by the wind.

A shining green light faintly surfaced in the midst of the moonlight.

[Who are you?]

The green light slowly changes its shape. Before long, it has changed into the figure of a young girl with emerald-green hair. Her whole body is emitting green phosphorescence including a one-piece-like dress she is wearing. Both eyes also shine brilliantly like jade.

"Spirit.....right?"

[Yes. I am the spirit of the great tree that govern this Great Forest Sea. I am also the incarnation of the Great Deity Tree]

"As I thought. I thought I felt a presence similar to the spirit of darkness I fought in Ramisshu. Well, that one was more muddy and stagnant"

Though I felt a small presence from the great deity tree as well, it felt more clearly than the one before me. Would I have not felt it so much if it didn't manifest like this?

[You fought? With spirit of darkness.....? Then, are you the one who freed that child?]

"Did you say "freed"? I just rushed in and purified it though"

[The spirits are immortal existences. The spirit of darkness will eventually return to this world too. More than that..... Who are you? This appearance is a pretense, isn't it? And what is that power slightly emanating from your whole body.....?]

Eh? Ah, is she able see the divine power by any chance? I used magic such as [Shield]. The divine power might have leaked out at that time. I cancel [Mirage] and expose my original form.

"I am Mochizuki Touya. I am working as the Sovereign King for Brunhild Dukedom to the north from here. Due to slightly complicated circumstances, I have a strange constitution, but I am a human"

[What exactly you mean by that.....?]

The spirit of the great tree expresses a confusion all over her face. Umm, what shall I do? The explanation is troublesome. I don't know whether she will believe me if I talk about Kami-sama.

But on the other hand, there is no reason to especially ask Kami-sama to come..... say, Ah, there is one other god. Though I am not sure about that one.

I opened "Gate" and dropped here the person who was most likely lying down on her bed.

"Ouch! W-w-what ~nanoyo!? Huh, is it you Touya-kun ~nanoyo?"

The dropped Karen-nee-san looks around in half asleep eyes. What are those pajamas full of pink heart marks?

If I think about it carefully, although she is a low-level god, I still treated her quite roughly. When I look at this person (God), I don't feel she is that important-looking. She is irresponsible, likes to do mischievous things, snatches foods, and she is selfish.

But I can't bring myself to hate her. Perhaps, I feel like she is also my family. Maybe because she treats me like her younger brother.

"Karen-nee-san, can you do that "Pika~tte" thing like Kami-sama?"

"Hoi? Pika~te? Do you mean the "Divinity Release"?"

"It is probably that"

A dazzling light is released from Nee-san's entire body. It isn't as great as the one Kami-sama has, but it is still amazing. Ah, it feels like that even though she is like that, she is still one of the gods.

".....Are you thinking of something rude ~noyo?"

"Soorr~y. F~rgiive mee~e. L~et me~e go~o"

She is pinching my cheeks. It hurts.

As I rubbed my released cheeks, the spirit of the great tree was prostrating itself on the ground to the side.

I guess it is effective even against the spirits. The god's influence of is strong. Even if that god is Karen-nee-san.

"Are you thinking of rude things again ~noyo?"

"A~m surrrr~i. F~rgiive mee~e?"

Gods, I can't make light of them.

Chapter 174: The Warriors, and A Second Older Sister

[Then, Touya-sama is Karen-sama's]

"He is my younger brother down here ~nanoyo. He is also a person who has been granted divine power by the World's Kami-sama ~nanoyo"

That's a lie. I wasn't granted it. It was a result of a chance. An honest mistake.

Well, the spirit of the great tree seems also convinced, so it's fine either way.

[Why is this kind of person at something like [Pruning Ceremony].....]

"I'm here to cheer at my relatives since they are participating. Ah, please keep the judgment fair"

[Haa.....]

But then, the Jaja tribe is the one doing the judging so she may not have any relation to it.

Besides that, Karen-nee-san can apparently completely suppress her divine power. It seems that in my case because I can't do that, I was discovered by the spirit of the great tree. Well, it is not like it is harmful, and I should probably leave it alone for now since it's something I may come to be able to do eventually. That the thing called "Divine Power" isn't apparently something that can be taught.

"Nevertheless, "Pruning Ceremony"? Is it a festival ~nanoyo?"

[Originally, duels were arranged as means to settle disputes, but then I began granting my divine protection to protect their lives. It certainly can be considered a festival now. Though now it involves honor and rights]

"If I am not mistaken, the spirit of the great tree had the special ability to nurture life. I see. I am convinced ~nanoyo"

Fumu. Does the spirit of the great tree have the power to protect life? Even if that's so, it doesn't look that almighty as well when I look at the instances where people start dying.

If it could protect anyone and everyone, there shouldn't have been any conflicts between the tribes in the Great Forest Sea.

"It looks interesting. I also want to watch this "Pruning Ceremony" ~nanoyo. I must cheer for Yae-chan and the rest since they appear in it!"

"Eh!? You are not going back ?!"

".....You know, that remark of yours is a little frustrating after you forcefully summon a person here ~noyo?"

"Adadadadadadadadadadada!"

I was pinched again.

The second day of "Pruning Ceremony".

The tribes that have advanced to the second round are going to compete with their prowess again. Two matches will be held today and the eight winning tribes will advance into the final round to be held tomorrow.

To tell you the truth, I can't yet see any tribe that could become an opponent for the Rauri tribe.

"By the way, which tribe won the previous "Pruning Ceremony"?"

"I was told that they called themselves the Panao tribe, but they have already been defeated"

Oh, my. Well, ten years have passed since the last ceremony. The members may be different as well.

There were also seemingly strong tribes present, but I think we have been surpassing them overall. Rue is most likely the weakest in our team. I guess I can say that Pam is slightly stronger than her, and Elsie without using [Boost] is stronger than Pam. But Yae and Hilda are even stronger. If Elsie uses [Boost], she will be equal to Yae and Hilda in strength.

I can't even imagine for a moment that someone can beat this lineup of three people. However, the compatibility of their opponents and weapons are also present, which has to be considered as well. For example are scenarios wherein an excellent and agile dagger user fights against Pam who uses an ax, or a spear user against the short ranged Elsie. There are also changes based on the fighting order.

Are such things also included? Today's order is different from the one yesterday. Yae is the vanguard, Pam is the spearhead, Hilda is the center, Elsie is the vice commander, and Rue is the captain.

"Look-look. Yae-chan's match is about to start ~noyo! Let's cheer for her ~noyo! Knock him ~out Y-A-E-cha~n!"

"Neesan, it isn't baseball so....."

While standing beside me, the frolicking Karen-nee-san is shrewdly wearing traditional clothes of the Rauri tribe. Well, even though I would be embarrassed if she stayed in that pajama, these clothes are also.....

In a certain sense, Karen-nee-san stands out too much due to her considerably good figure. Though I can say it is natural because she is the goddess after all.....

While I was thinking of such things, Yae easily knocked down her opponent. It seems this match is all right. The surprise on the opponent's team can be seen. I suppose their vanguard was on the strong side. If their strength is only to the point of being easily defeated by Yae, they won't likely to be difficult opponents.

In fact, our team got three straight wins with Pam and Hilda just like that.

"However what is it..... were they always so strong?"

Though they occasionally completed the guild commissions, they have been practicing almost every day. Even if they were also going to the training room which was made underground, the speed of their growth during those several months is amazing.

Karen-nee-san tilts her head in puzzlement towards my murmuring.

"Hm? Are they by chance..... changing into [Dependants]~noyo?"

"[Dependants]?"

"Hmm, the thing called [Divine Power] is just the [Power of God], but Touya-kun still hasn't awoken it, so you may not use it ~noyo. If I am still to describe your state, you are half-god..... something like a demigod~nanoyo"

Eh..... Has it already progressed this far!? Certainly, I have heard that my

body is becoming closer to that of god. Somehow, I'm gradually moving further away from being human.....

"With that in mind, the ones called "dependants" are those who received a divine protection of a god. Touya-kun must be unconsciously distributing divine power to the people whom you think of as family ~noyo. It's slightly insignificant, but is that what you call as [God's Love]? That feels like it ~nanoyo. Speaking of that on a much larger scale, we are the dependants of the World's Kami-sama. His family ~nanoyo"

Ah, I feel like I get it for some reason. I definitely think of everyone as my family. I believe in that I want to protect them. Am I giving them power as dependents? I see. The love goddess, Karen-nee-san, can also be called the dependant of the World's Kami-sama.

"Those kids won't wake up a [Divine Power], but they are may acquire some unique ability ~noyo. They will absolutely reach the class of the strongest humans if they continue like this"

"Will they reach that far!?"

"You shouldn't make light of a [God's Love] you know ~noyo? The [Existences loved by God] are like that ~nanoyo. By the way, they will naturally lose its effect if they are hated by Touya-kun ~noyo"

Well, I don't think that will happen. It is impossible for me to come to hate everyone. However, what an absurd blessing it grants.....

"But, even if it's within the level of a demigod, that much is.....Ah"
"?"

"Hmmm~ Huh? Is that so ~nanoyo? Muumuu. I guess that's fine ~nanoyo"

"Don't be convinced by yourself. Please explain things properly"

I reflectively thrust a tsukkomi at Karen-nee-san who crossed her hands for some reason and began to mutter by herself while tilting her head.

"Ah~ those kids probably..... became my dependents at the same time they became Touya-kun's dependents ~noyo"

"Eh?"

"I am perceiving Touya-kun as my little brother, as a family so to say ~noyo. Thus, I see those girls who are your brides as a family too ~noyo. Though that

love is not on the same level as Touya-kun's ~ne"

Ah, so it's like that? The love goddess has twice as much [God's Love] compared to the demigod. The girls definitely have good relationships with her. Well, she's their [Sister-in-law-sama] after all.

"...Is something wrong?"

Lindsey called to us as if being curious about our discussion. She likely couldn't hear the contents of our talk with all the cheering around. Well, she might not understand its meaning even if she heard it though.

"Ya, there is nothing wrong"

"I was confirming that Touya-kun loves Lindsey-chan ~noyo"

"Rea~! Is that right? I-I also I-love yo.....!"

"Ah~ how cute ~noyo~! Giyu~!"

Karen-nee-san hugs Lindsey who turned red while stammering her words.

I see. She is definitely receiving [God's Love]. I can agree that she has become a "Dependant".

"Touya-san, please look at that"

"Eh?"

When I looked towards the direction Yumina, who was observing the match, was pointing at, two men were fighting at the stage. A big man was waving around a greatsword and a bojutsu user with a shaved head was nimbly dodging him.

The giant man was clearly someone from the Great Forest Sea, but the bojutsu user was different. That skin color, isn't he someone from the east? Is he a helper same as us?

While continuing to avoid the attacks, he is obviously exhausting the giant's stamina. Not missing this gap, the shaven man sharply and brilliantly thrust his pole through the giant's chest. The giant collapsed on the spot. The shaved man has won. After bowing to his fallen opponent, the man returned to his own area.

He is strong. He has a considerable skill. Was that strength of his bought by

the tribe and he was called in as a helper? Although this doesn't have any relation to what is going on, saying [Shaved head Boujutsu (坊主が棒術)] is a tongue twister. I can't say it three times.

As I continue watching the stage while thinking of something stupid, another person who is not part of the tribe from the Great Forest Sea comes out of the shaven head's camp. I was surprised to see a woman who had probably been recognized as a comrade to that tribe, much less in the position of a representative.

She has pointed ears, golden pupils, a pattern made of scales floating on a reddish brown skin. Furthermore, there are two horns growing among short black hair and a thick tail growing from her waist. That is.....

"She is from the Dragon Clan, isn't she?"

Yumina whispers. The Dragon Clan. It probably is so. If I am not mistaken, do those demi-humans belong to one of the seven leading clans of Misumido?

"The Dragon Clan has few numbers. Even among the seven tribes of Misumido, they have the fewest numbers. However, they possess high combat ability and are a race of proud warriors, aren't they? This also my first time seeing one"

Now that I think about it, I didn't see any of them when we visited Misumido. The dragon clan is politically indifferent and most of their interest is gathered and directed towards combat and training. I haven't met one since they also don't hold any important positions in Misumido.

She is holding dark gray gauntlets. Is she a melee fighter same as Elsie?

As soon as the match started, the woman from dragon clan could be seen agilely step forward. But in the next moment, she was already drawing extremely close to the ax user. And then, she struck out her right palm in a flash. The roaring sound echoed and her opponent was blown out of premises with even being touched.

What is that.....? Is this [Internal Power Release]? I don't think it was magic because it was used on stage.

She did same as the shaved head and returned to her camp. She is a polite

warrior. Is it a school which requires showing manners to a defeated opponent similar to Japanese Kendo or Judo?

"Look at that. It looks like it won't be simple to win after all"

"Looks like it"

As we tried looking at the other stages as well, we could catch glimpses of groups with skilled warriors. However, I still think that those two from a while ago are excelling above the others.

"Naaa!?"

Karen-nee-san lets out a strange voice while looking at the contestant's grounds. Why? Are there any strange contestants?

Two people were fighting with swords at a place which Karen-nee-san was looking at. One person is from the tribe of the Great Forest Sea while the other seems to be a helper from another region. The helper appeared to be a female swordsman who skillfully handled her opponent's attacks while carrying a sword with one hand. She had a short purplish silver hair and a white porcelain skin.

"Oh my, why.....?"

Amazing. What's amazing is that woman didn't take a single step. She even prevented attacks coming right from behind her with the sword without even looking back as if she could totally see them. What has she done to be able to do that? Moreover, she handles everything with one hand.

Eventually, her opponent stopped moving after he attacked as much as he liked, and she finished him by lightly hitting his shoulder. With only that blow, her opponent couldn't stand anymore with just that, and the female swordsman's victory was decided.

Oi-oi, she had won without moving at all. I don't think that her opponent was weak either though.....

But because the tribe of that female swordsman couldn't defeat the other three people, they lost here.

"Umm Mou~ Why is that kid in such place ~noyo?"

"Eh?"

Is she acquainted with Karen-nee-san? As we were looking at the retreating figure of that woman going out from the Deity Tree region, she suddenly looked back, lightly waved her hand and smiled at me.

Hmm? Huh? Does she know me?

"Touya-kun, I will borrow you for a while ~noyo. Yumina-chan, I will be borrowing Touya-kun for a while ~noyo"

"Eh? O-okay"

After being taken by Karen-Neesan, we go out of the Deity Tree region. The one waiting for us in the shadow of rather large tree was the woman from before who had her hands on her waist while expressing a smile.

"Ya~"

"Do not "Ya~" ~noyo. Why you are here ~noyo?"

Karen-nee-san folds her arms with an expression that looked more amazed than angry while confronting that swordswoman. The swordswoman just laughed in a parched voice against that retort without any fear.

"Officially speaking, I am here to help you. And the actual reason is that it looks interesting"



"Umm Mu~"

The moment I thought that the swordswoman's voice sounded familiar by chance, an idea came to me. No way, but..... Everything else is impossible.

"Karen-nee-san.....Say, that person, could she perhaps....."

"Yes. She's a companion of mine. The Sword God ~nanoyo"

"Sword God!?"

As I thought! Moreover, you have said she is the Sword God! And did she just tell that she came down because she found it amusing? She's definitely one of the gods! Oi-oi, do the gods have that much free time? Well, though capturing the subordinate god does look like a work too, it also looks like some sort of convenient excuse to mention.....

"Nice to meet you, I guess. Though I think I don't really feel that way since I peep at the ground from time to time. Touya-kun"

"Haa..... Glad to meet you, I am Mochizuki Touya"

"Ah, pleased to meet you. Nevertheless, Love Goddess. What is the deal with "Karen-nee-san"?"

"I am Touya-kun's Oneesan down 《here》 ~nanoyo. Mochizuki Karen. Fufun, doesn't that sound good?"

Karen-nee-san throws out her chest with pride after clearing her throat with an 'Ahem', but it's not something to be proud of, you know. Although it's not something to brag about, the Sword God Onee-san's reaction was different.

"That's nice~ Ah, then I will also be Onee-san"

"You are not allowed ~noyo~ The Onee-san's position is mine ~nanoyo"

Karen-nee-san turns her face away while laughing as if she's joking around. With regards to that, the Sword God Onee-san puts her hands together as if she's praying.

"Isn't that fine? Ah, that means I'm your younger sister since I'm the second Onee-san. I beg you, Karen-nee-san"

"I am the elder Onee-san? ~nanoyo?"

"Um, yeah. I am the younger sister"

Karen-nee-san ponders while making a thinking gesture. She then clicks her tongue and gazes directly at us. What this little play?

"If that's the case, then I guess it's fine ~noyo. It's special, right? ~nanoyo"

"I did it. And because of that, I'm now also an Onee-san. So please take care of me"

The Sword God, with the position of my second Onee-san, turns towards me with a smiling face.

For whatever reason, I don't understand why the number of my onee-sans increased by one more.....What's with this?

Chapter 175: The Tribe of Poison, and Older Sister's true strength

"You are Touya-san's second Onee-san !?"

"That's right ~nanoyo. Her name is Mochizuki 《望月》 Moroha《諸刃》. Moroha-chan ~nanoyo. My younger sister ~nanoyo"

"Nice to meet you"

(TLC: her name means "double-edged blade" or "many blades")

The Sword God..... or rather, Moroha-nee-san, as introduced by Karen-nee-san, shook Lindsey's hand. Everyone was probably surprised at the sudden appearance of another older sister. I can understand them. I was also surprised.

"Pardon our late introduction. Our humble selves have the privilege of being engaged to Touya-san....."

"I know of you ~yo. You are Yumina, this girl is Lindsey and this child is Suu, right"

"You perchance know of us?"

"Ah, I have been watching you carefully from atop....."

"Aaah, look here! She heard about you from Karen-nee-san's letter!"

The new older sister was about to say unnecessary things, so I interrupted her and managed to deceive them, somehow. This nee-san, it seems she's unable to read the situation a bit. An Airhead?

Moroha-nee-san is almost as beautiful as Karen-nee-san, but if I was pressed to explain, Karen-nee-san is a cute type of beauty, and Moroha-nee-san is a dignified type of beauty.

She is tall, and could it be said that she emanates grace with her every movement? It's a level where it would not be abnormal if she was a part of an opera troupe.

"Nevertheless, why is Touya's older sister in such a place ~ja? ? "

"Hmm~ I like, tried forcing my way to participate. Because it seemed slightly interesting ~kana? Though I lost since it was a team knockout competition. I,

well, came here for warrior training ~kana"

Moroha-nee-san made up a good reason and avoided Suu's question.

Apparently, this person, while watching from above, found it so interesting, that she came down, forced herself into a tribe, and fought as a member like nothing had happened. It seems that her tribe thought of her as a friend. Was it something like hypnotism? Well, since she's a god even the impossible is possible, right?

Although strictly speaking, those two are supposedly disallowed from interfering with what happens on the ground. Well, while they are not allowed to interfere as [God], it appears that they are able to interfere as [Human] who have reached the top of their power. Their physical abilities also seem to be at the [apex] of human standards. But rather than being of a master class, however, they are of monster class.

That's why even if I begged them for things like [Please annihilate Fureizu] or [Please restore Yuuron], it would be impossible. In any case, it seems that they are useless humans (Gods?) if the subject is not related to their domain.....

"When you say warrior training, is it possible that the one who taught Touya-san the sword is Moroha-nee-sama?"

"Ah~.....Well, I guess it is like that. Though Touya-kun also has acquired various self-taught techniques into his swordsmanship"

"There is no one who can match Moroha-chan with sword skills ~noyo. She is the best in the world ~nanoyo"

Karen-nee-san boasts as if it's herself with the achievement. I guess she would be. Because she is also a god. Ah, but is it possible to ask this Neesan train our house knights.....?

However, since she is called the [Sword God], perhaps she would be useless with other weapons like axes or spears. And weapons like [Daggers] or [Dual swords] might be barely okay? Should I try asking about it later?

"Oh, the match is starting for Yae's team! Won't they advance to the finals tomorrow if they win this ~jaro?"

I stopped thinking because of Suu's voice and turned my attention towards

the stage. Today, the best 8 will be determined amongst whom [Tribe of Tree King] will be decided tomorrow. In other words, the best 16 are present here.

"The Balum tribe also won and advanced one way or another"

"The contestants are different from the people who picked a quarrel with us. They do seem strong"

I guess that's obvious? If they were at the same level as the guys from yesterday, I can only think the Balum tribe was blessed with quite an easy match up.

Oops, I should watch Yae's match more than being concerned about those guys.

Yae's opponent is a tribesman with tattoos from head to toe and a tomahawk in each hand.

The man approached Yae as soon as the match started, and brandished the ax with his right hand. Yae avoided the attack with a back step, exchanged a blow with her left hand to the right hand of her pursuer, and then took some distance backward.

"It will be Yae's victory, I guess"

"Eh?"

Moroha-Neesan floated a small smile showing she was enjoying the match and muttered.

The man was gradually cornering Yae on the stage. However, Yae didn't appear to be impatient and continued to avoid the ax. Is she waiting for something?

Eventually, she moved. Avoiding the ax of the tomahawk tribesman, she swung her katana which sliced the tomahawk's grip in the upward strike. The blade of the ax flew outside the stage. In the backswing, the katana cut the other ax as well. After that, Yae's blade flashed against the unguarded torso of the dumbfounded man.

The tribesman was defeated with that one blow.

"It is impossible for Yae's katana to cross with a highly destructive weapon

like an ax. There is a chance the katana will get damaged, as well. If she attacked against the guarding ax, it would be no different. So she was probably aiming for the timing to destroy the ax. But despite that, to quickly draw her katana and decide the match in one stroke without even letting him defend, she could have ended it sooner. She must have been slightly playing around. She was probably, like, trying to see if she could cut down a swinging ax. In that regard, she probably needs some more training ~kana"

O~oooh. Though I don't quite get it, Moroha-nee-san understood it very well. As expected of the Sword God, it seems she could distinguish as much immediately.

Regarding the match, subsequently, both Pam and Hilda achieved straight wins, so the Rauri tribe will be advancing to the last day.

They managed to get to the last day without danger, didn't they?

"Eh?"

As I casually looked at the other stages, the Balum tribe was fighting against a weird tribe.

They had skinny bodies with a bent over posture. Long claws covered the back of their hands, and strange masks were worn on their faces. Even if I call it a mask, it's not a mask, it's something like a dust protector which covers the bottom half of the face. For an instant, I questioned which rotten ocean they were going to clean.

Their eyes, for some reason, looked suspicious too. I feel a light emanating some kind of madness from them as well.

Although the Balum tribe's current contender was a large man with a spear, he was receiving the masked man's attacks and had countless small scratches all over his body.

The Balum tribesman thrust his spear, but his step wavered unsteadily. Is his stamina nearly exhausted? Sweating profusely, he was also breathing heavily.

"Fumu, a poison?"

"Eh!?"

I was surprised when Moroha-nee-san said that without hesitation. Poison, you say..... Is it perhaps painted on their claws?

"It is not to the extent it can kill. At most, it numbs the hands and feets, consumes their stamina, causes slight dizziness. About this much, I guess? Apparently, it is also scattered on the stage itself"

"Isn't using poison a rule violation?"

"No, magic is forbidden, but nothing in particular besides that. The act which smears a tribe's pride is said to be prohibited, so they must tread lightly when using poison. Moreover, it is a common hunting method to obtain the game by poison after all"

Now that I hear it, I guess that's correct. For some reason, I feel like that's cowardly. Certainly, it would be hard to say that the masked tribe excels in body strength. So, they might have established a method of hunting using poison to compensate instead.

It isn't bad to battle with their specialization... I guess.

With the movements of the Balum tribesman dulled, the bent-back man quickly rushed forward, stabbing the claws of his right hand into the Balum tribesman's stomach. The match was over with that.

With that match, the male dominated Balum tribe were demoralized and were defeated one after another by the poison manipulators from the Rivet tribe. It was a distressing elimination.

"They ended up losing, didn't they? That Balum Tribe"

"This should ease the anxiety of the Rauri tribe for now"

With this, the Balum tribe was prevented from becoming [Tribe of Tree King] and placing a disadvantageous rule on the Rauri tribe.

However, that poison is still troublesome. Even without directly attacking, the results will be the same with combatants inhaling poison scattered around the stage. Is that their aim? I think they purposely fight defensively to waste time during the fight of the vanguards. They probably bide their time for the poison to affect the other four combatants as well.

Luckily, thanks to the protection of the spirit, the poison inside the stage

didn't spread anywhere else.

In other words, it seems both the spirit and referee approve the use of poison. Although the referee, being on the stage at the time, was also poisoned. Since it was not life threatening, he will recover after several hours.

Still, even that kind of poison can become fatal while fighting. It would be wise for the girls to prepare some countermeasures, I guess. They may face that tribe tomorrow.

I had asked if the Rivet tribe ever participated in [Pruning Ceremony] beforehand and was informed that it's a new tribe, recently split from a different tribe. The originating tribe also used poison to some extent while hunting. From this tribe, a new specialized tribe was formed.

For the tribes of the Great Forest Sea, rather than being a family, they are more akin to a village or colony. It wouldn't, then, be unusual for new tribes to be born from other tribes, other tribes being absorbed or vanishing.

"Oh"

The Dragon clan's melee fighter tribeswoman I saw yesterday was fighting on another stage. She had the same steady actions, without any unnecessary movements. Ah, similar to before, her enemy was blown away.

Say, was that the third match for them? A straight win, her tribe is also advancing to the finals tomorrow.

All of the tribes that have won and entered the top 8 seem to have a unique feature or trait. One tribe wears full-body Jaguar furs, another uses bone-made weapons, etc. They are full of variety.

It may be a bit difficult tomorrow.

=====Scene Change=====

"Are we really doing it?"

"Don't hold back. Come when you are ready. Ah, the magic isn't really allowed"

After introducing Moroha-nee-san to the participating girls, Hilda and Yae made a request: "Please have a match with us".

Since Karen-nee-san gloated of Moroha-nee-san's skill in swordsmanship, the

fire in Yae and Hilda had been ignited. However, I shouldn't let them fight since they are participating in the [Pruning Ceremony]. There is an important match tomorrow after all. I would be worried if anything were to happen to them.

Yet, Hilda and Yae's group petitioned to see Moroha-nee-san's skill, and with some pestering, it was decided that she would have a mock battle after dinner.

"Why am I your opponent?"

"Well, you know, there is no one else?"

Well, I guess that's true. I can't let Yumina or Lindsey spar with her even if I exclude [Pruning Ceremony] participants.

It can't be helped. I am a little interested as well, so shall we see it? I clench the imitation sword made of mithril and confronted Moroha-nee-san.

"I will not end it quickly, so attack with your full strength"

"Then, shall I start? Ne~ to!"

To start with, I rush straight in and swing my sword downward, to test something. My older sister lightly parried the attack, while rotating her body around to my back, she swung her sword horizontally. Bending my body, I easily dodge the raised up sword as I let it pass by me.

Facing off again, I try a feign this time. Pretending to aim at her torso from the right, I instead swipe with my sword upwards to hit her right arm. However, Nee-san slams herself into me, causing me to lose my balance. After nearly falling down, I roll on the ground with some force and gain some distance. She doesn't seem serious yet, as she isn't pursuing me.

It's a bit irritating that she has time to float a smile. Since she isn't being serious, let's go full force!

Chapter 176: The Dragon's Magic Eye, and A Sign Of Change

"I give up....."

I raised the white flag while lying spread-eagled on the bare ground. Impossible. Totally impossible. Though I somehow managed to graze her several times, I couldn't land a single deciding hit. I feel like I could have managed it somehow if I could use magic, but I cannot win based solely on sword skills. As expected of the only Sword God.

"Well, it was more dangerous than I thought it would be. And so I got a little serious. I wonder, won't you reach my level if you steadily continue training ~kana?"

Nah~nah~. I don't feel like become The Second (二代目). Honestly, even if I pile up sword techniques to that extent, I can't think of anyone who could be my opponent besides you.

"I could barely see the sword lines of both of them ~degozaru....."

"M-me as well.....。 A-amazing, both of them....."

Though both Hilda and Yae were in a daze, they still spoke out their thoughts. Even if they say that it was amazing, I want to exclaim "There is definitely a considerably high wall between me and Nee-san!". But I don't have the strength to even do that.

"Hee~. Saying [hardly], does that mean that you have [more or less] seen it? Aren't the two of you quite promising ones?"

Moroha-nee-san is happily looking at both Hilda and Yae. On the other hand, the two of them are looking up at the Sword God in front of them with sparkling eyes. Are they delighted she acknowledges them even if it is only to some extent?

"I will be teaching the both of you with great care before long because I intend to be under Touya-kun's care for awhile"

"Really ?! Moroha-Onee-sama!"

"Aneue ! My gratitude ~degozaru!"

Both girls faced her with even more sparkling eyes. I guess this is the birth of the two Sword God devotees.

"Muu~ Moroha-chan stole the two younger sisters-in-laws ~noyo....."

"I-I-I respect Karen-onee-san very much, you know?"

"Lindsey-cha~n. You are a good girl, a good girl, giyu ~nanoyo"

Karen-nee-san is hugging Lindsey for reasons unknown to me. Although Rue is not like the other two, it seems she has some interest in Moroha-nee-san. Well, I guess that's because in her case, she is not sword-baka like the other two.

Having regained the ability to somewhat move my body, I apply [Refresh], thus restoring my stamina. Fuu. I suppose I still have some way to go.

I don't know when, but spectators have been gathering around us. No wonder, I guess. That fight was that flashy.

"Who are they?"

"Apparently, they are the Rauri tribe's guests. Though I was told they are not the participants"

"Even though they have that much ability.....Why?"

"Hell if I know"

Whispers from the spectators reached my ears. My answer to those. It is because I am a man.

(TL: dont forget Touya appear as female for them)

Among those watching from the distance, there were that shaved-head boujutsu user and the female melee fighter from the Dragon clan.

The shaved-head man lightly bowed and greeted me after noticing my gaze, but the female fighter continued to motionlessly gaze at me. Oya? Her right eye has golden pupil, and her left has red pupil.....Is this a magic eye by any chance?

While she kept gazing towards here without moving, I discovered a danger behind her, drew out Brynhildr from my waist and pulled the trigger without hesitation.

The gunshot echoes and a single man falls down from the large tree behind the Dragon clan's woman with a loud thud. He fell down all the while being stunned with a paralyzing bullet. When I looked at the place where he fell, he was grasping a strong bow and arrow. It is obvious that he was aiming at the above-mentioned woman from the Dragon clan.

"Do you recognize him?"

I ask while pointing at the collapsed man behind the woman from the Dragon clan.

".....He is from the tribe I have battled against earlier"

I see. So it is resentment, huh? Is it something like a revenge in retaliation for losing? The Jaja tribe which [Referee tribe] came and dragged the man who couldn't move.

Even if surprise attacks happen often during [Pruning Ceremony], it is natural that if those come to light, there will be a severe penalty as well. Which is the suspension from participating during the next [Pruning Ceremony]. The anger of the tribe that faced such dishonored will be turned to the offender. There is no doubt he will be banished from their village.

Being thrown out from the village, he will have to live alone in this Great Forest Sea. It becomes his punishment.

"You saved me. I am called Sonia Paralem. I am currently imposing on the Lulush tribe"

The woman of the Dragon clan expresses her gratitude and bows her head.

"I am called Rengetsu 《蓮月》. I would like to express my thanks for helping Sonia-san when she was in dangerous situation"

(TLC: It is either Rengetsu, or Hazutsuki. Jisho.org points towards the former as name (though it is a female name). Any thoughts?)

The shaved-head boujutsu user also lowers his head like it is given. Rengetsu.....Is he by chance from Yuuron? Or maybe Ishen? The black hair, or rather, he doesn't have any hair, so I can't tell though. Ah, but I can see that his eyebrow are black when I look at him closely.

"Rengetsu-san, where are you from?"

"Eh? I am from Ishen, but is something wrong?"

I am glad~. it would be troublesome one way or another if he was from Yuuron. I noticed it back when I met Yae, but it seems that people of Ishen like to travel a lot. There are a lot of people who train themselves by traveling around the world.

And conversely speaking, a person from Yuuron doesn't go around various countries that much. Or rather, crossing over to other countries itself was difficult due to the policies of the former government. There would be various bothersome if not difficult procedures one would have to go through. To the point where one would think "I didn't believe it would be that much trouble to go to foreign country". It seems that various regulations in regards to the spreading of the news were also placed.

Well, the refugees are already leaving that country one after another and flowing to other countries since that regime had collapsed. If I have to say a figure, it doesn't look to be much of them since the most of them have been killed by Fureizu. Though they will probably be a headache for the countries that will receive them.

"I am Mochizuki Touya. I am a guest of the Rauri Tribe, etto.....?"

As I tried to introduce myself, Sonia once again was staring at me. Huh? Is her magic eye being invoked for some reason?

"Hey.....Is there something?"

".....I am not sure if I want to hear this, but why do you have a female figure?"

Huh? Don't tell me the [Mirage] isn't working? I sneakily asked Sonia with a low voice, and she made a small nod.

"Ah, Well. I knew that some people have such hobby, but I was a little surprised....."

"W-w-wait a moment, wait a moment! It is different than you think! It is misunderstanding!"

I will be recognized as a man with a hobby to dress up like a woman if it goes on like this. Even though it is illusion and not cross-dressing! I took the two

people to a deserted place and explained the situation to them.

The Rauri tribe's pride won't be defiled because I am not participating. Even if I am exposed by other people, it will only result in me being unable to watch the matches, so it won't particularly matter even if I am exposed. And should that time come, the option to become [Invisible] is present as well.

"Or rather, is that magic eye the reason why the illusion doesn't work?"
"Yes. My magic eye has the power to negate the illusions. Visual effects brought by the magic won't work on this right eye as well"

I see. So the flash-like blinding made by light magic will just be canceled by that right eye as well? No, it may work if she is caught off guard since it shouldn't be active all the time though.

"Well, though it isn't a really significant matter, it will be a great help if you keep silent about this"

"Then, we are even since you have saved us a little while ago"

Oh, they are reasonable, aren't they? Unexpectedly, it seems easy to talk to this pair. It looks like they have gentle personalities. According to them, they are the adventurers who are currently traveling around the world in order to train themselves. Their story goes about like this: in the middle of their journey, two of the contestants from the Lulush tribe that took care of them couldn't appear in [Pruning Ceremony] due to illness. Those two then offered to help that tribe.

"We had received a privilege of being able to watch Touya-san's match some time ago. Though it goes for Touya-san as well, but.....that opponent, who was that?"

"Ah. That person is Moroha-nee-san.....She is my second older sister. To be frank, winning against her is impossible. Because she is the strongest even if it is only with swords"

"The strongest, you say.....?"

Though their faces were saying that they both think that it is an overstatement, that's natural it will be like that, won't it? However, it is a fact.

For now, we decided that should we confront each other tomorrow, we would send our best regards at that time and do a mutual yell-like exchange.

Then I parted with the two of them.

"So you were here?"

"Eh? Pam?"

Pam came after I had separated from those two people. Her figure vaguely emerges from inside the darkness being shined upon by the moonlight.

"The Balum tribe had lost. You can feel relieved for now"

"I guess so. However, I would like to make a strategic preparation for the next [Pruning Ceremony]. I really want Touya's kid after all....."

"You promised to forget that if you will be victorious"

"I know. The Rauri tribe doesn't break their promises"

As if it shows that she regrets that, Pam expresses a sulking face and turns away.

"Is additional rule that you will add be to send the Balum tribe to a remote area as expected?"

"Umu, that maybe also be good. After that much effort, I am also thinking of making some different rule. Of course, something that will benefit the Rauri tribe will be good, but....."

Pam ponders over those thoughts. Something benefiting the Rauri tribe ~nee..... If you think about it normally, would it be a rule which is advantageous for women? It is because the Rauri tribe vehemently opposes gender equality after all..... Though I hope you would be able to govern the tribes of the Great Forest Sea without talking about that equality.

In the first place, that much of difference between men and women are only within the Rauri and the Balum tribes.

Well, if I have to say which one it is, it feels like that standpoint of the women is weaker in the other tribes.

"How about making something like [Only women can participate in [Pruning Ceremony]]?"

"Don't say stupid things. It will cause a riot"

I guess it would. The other tribes won't stay silent. There are tribes with strong women of course, but the majority lies with men.

"Then how about differentiating [Pruning Ceremony] according to gender?"
"Mm?That may not be bad..... Our Rauri tribe will have a considerable advantage among the women's tribes if it split by gender....."
(TL: won't they say Lauri of being scared of men :p)

Pam grumbled and started to think. Oi-oi, are you serious? I guess, the idea of man and woman fighting in the same arena itself is quite unfamiliar for our thinking. Taking Olympics for example, it is separated by gender. The bodies of men and women are built different from the start, so it can't be helped. Differentiation is different from discrimination after all.

"However, if that rule is established, then the other tribes will probably participate in both divisions, men's and women's. Are you aware of that? Only Rauri tribe and Balum tribe won't be able to do that. Will that be okay?"

"There is no problem. Rather, that's what I wish. If that rule is put into practice, it will cause the other tribes not being able to make light of women anymore"

Ah, really? So there is also such way of thinking too..... The women's strength will be recognized as well. They will be able to take more active positions.

Though I could hear some dangerous mutter like "The women of the other tribes will awake their strength with this. If they seek a place to make use of that strength, they may naturally drift to the Rauri tribe. That will also be strengthening the Rauri tribe..... Not bad. Not bad at all.....".

The improvement of women's position is not bad idea..... It shouldn't be, but I have a complicated feeling about that as a man..... I might have proposed something troublesome.

The spirit of the great tree will have to bestow two laws if it becomes divided by gender. But well, that will probably be all right.

Even if I say that it bestows it, the spirit just acknowledges it. Those laws are something that is being decided by everyone in fact.

"Alright, I will suggest it to everyone in the tribe too. This may change [Pruning Ceremony] in a great way"

Pam ran off in a high spirit. When I was seriously troubled whether I did an unnecessary thing, the spirit of the great tree was next to me before I knew it.

She was emitting green phosphorescence as usual.

[It may not be a bad suggestion. The position of women in the Great Forest Sea maybe gets a little better as a result of that. Though It may be a little extreme to be like the Rauri tribe, that's also tribe individuality]

Uun. Is it really so? Though there may be no particular answer for this. About which one will have the upper hand in this or not.

I decided to return to everyone while holding onto such complicated anguish. The spirit of the great tree also vanished before I noticed. Is the reason why she didn't inquire about Moroha-nee-san because she completely erased her divine power? It seems It is leaking from me though. If I don't learn how to do that much, I have a hunch my troubles will increase even more.

On my way back, I suddenly turned around. There were several shadows heading deep into the forest in the opposite direction. Are those..... Rivet tribe? There is probably no other tribe with such masks.

At that time, I thought they might be going to do their business as well and didn't mind them. But when I thought about it in hindsight, it would appear to be my mistake.

Chapter 177: The Boujutsu User, and The Dual Sword's User

The third day of [Pruning Ceremony]. This prolonged battle will end today as well. The eight winning tribes will clash, and the [Tribe of the Tree King] will be decided.

It seems that Pam spoke about yesterday proposal with everyone, and she apparently persuaded them, thus they became pretty motivated. Though I am still worried about whether I did something unnecessary. Oh well, whatever happens, happens.

It looks like today's format is going to be like this: only the first 4 matches will be held simultaneously, those will decide the best four tribes. After that, there are going to be two matches held one after another which will decide the best two, amongst which the finals are going to be held.

Standing on top of the four large stages brought forth in Deity Tree Region, the confronting tribes are facing each other.

However, it's a mystery why they have grown in a shape of stumps..... After all, they disappear into the ground once the match ends. Is it the spirit's power? I guess I should leave it alone since it is bothersome to concern myself with it. (TL: really? Shouldn't u have said that on the first day?)

"The first opponent.....is a weird tribe"

They are decorated with bird wings from head to toe, wear a mantle which looks like a big wing, and a headdress that is surely made from the skull of a giant bird. That outfit..... I guess they are using something similar to scientific ninja arts (科学忍法).

(TLC: reference to anime "Gatchaman")

As soon as the match began, the bird tribesman started to run with an awful speed through the stage. He is fast! This speed is quite something. Elsie who is confronting him doesn't move.

The bird tribesman runs around Elsie as he pleases while changing whether he

attacks or feigns, pretends to go from the front and then jump to the side all the while cornering Elsie with those ever-changing movements. Even then, Elsie doesn't move.

Then, the speed of the bird tribesman suddenly increased by one more level and he turned around Elsie's back using that momentum. In that moment I thought that the dagger he held would go through Elsie's back, but she dodged that attack with a sidestep and delivered a backhand chop that wonderfully crushed both the tribesman's face and the bird's skull. Ouch, that must have hurt.

That bird tribesman remained fallen without being able to stand up. He likely won't die since the divine protection of the spirit should be functioning. But to finish this with one blow is quite.....

Following after Elsie, both Yae and Hilda have consecutively achieved easy wins. The Rauri tribe became the first tribe to advance to the best four.

"They had so much leeway ~noyo. It was an overwhelming victory ~nanoyo"
"If it was some power-focused tribe, this tribe could have won against them by repeating such disruption attacks which utilize that speed ~you know. But unfortunately for them, that level isn't really a match for Elsie and the girls"

It is exactly as Karen-nee-san and Moroha-nee-san have said, the opponents weren't their match. It appears that the girls' strength was polished even further after coming here.....

.....Don't tell me they have become the dependents of not just Karen-nee-san but also of Moroha-nee-san as well. Yae and Hilda got excessively closer to Moroha-nee-san yesterday..... It's quite possible that they have become those.

Uun, but it isn't bad so to speak. I just feel awkward since it looks like they have gotten rolled up in some of my circumstances.

"Ah, Touya-san. Look at that"
"Eh?"

Lindsey points ahead at the place where Rengetsu-san, the boujutsu user whom I got to know yesterday, knocked down his opponent. It seems the Lulush tribe they belong to has achieved straight wins as well.

Including the outcomes of the other stages, the best four tribes have been decided. One of them was the poison-using Rivet tribe.

Just in case, I have prepared masks for Yae and the girls as a countermeasure for the poison.

The remaining tribes are as follows:

- The female-dominated Rauri tribe;
- The poison-using Rivet tribe;
- The martial art masters of the Lulush tribe;
- The strong-armed Lemuna tribe.

With this, the RaRiLuLe is splendidly completed. There is no “Ro” though. (TLC: a pun on the tribes names. The Japanese “alphabet” has 5 basic vowels (A,I,U,E,O) and the basic syllables are built around adding a consonant to vowel. Thus, we get “Ka, Ki, Ku, Ke, Ko for “K” consonant and the vowels for example. The MC refers to such set, but with “R” consonant, which is incomplete since there are only 4 tribes and 5 syllables (<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hiragana>)

"Should we watch out for the Rivet tribe?"

"Umm, there is also the Lulush tribe which has Sonia-san, I guess. It may be a very close battle depending on the opponent"

Nevertheless, they will have an easy time if they are matched against the Lemuna tribe since that tribe is simply boasting of its strength. On the other hand, it will be really dangerous if the opponent catches them. Since it looks like they have the power to easily snap a bear's neck, the girls can't let their guard down, but at least that tribe's fighting style is simple.

"Now then, the first match seems to start ~ja. Oh?"

I looked at the stage after hearing Suu's voice. The branches and leaves rustle and start to move noisily, and the sunlight illuminates two tribes. They are the Rauri tribe and the Lulush tribe.

"They are up against Sonia-san's group, aren't they?~ Umm, it will be a difficult fight"

To be frank, I don't think Rue will be able to win if she is against either of those two. I suppose the same can be said about Pam as well. Can Yae and Hilda

win against Sonia-san? Also, it's possible Elsie will lose if she goes against Rengetsu-san because of their bad compatibility. It'll be our loss if, should Pam and Elsie be defeated by those two, Rue is defeated by another contestant from the Lulush tribe.

Well, if I am to talk about the probability, I think we have more chances of winning though.

The both sides go around to the opposite sides of the stump, decide their fighting order and ascend the staircase. It's evident from the audience seats, but the participants will know who is their opponent only after going up on the stage.

"What a delicate situation....."

So it is Rue vs. Rengetsu-san, and Elsie vs. Sonia-san... This is tricky. Even if those two are defeated, we can still advance to the finals if Yae, Hilda and Pam, the remaining three, win. If we are to lose, might it be due to Pam losing?

Conversely saying, it'll be a sure victory for the Rauri tribe if either Rue or Elsie wins.

Elise is the one with the best chances to win, but it will be a fight between the melee fighters. Honestly, I can't figure out who will win or lose. Elsie would have quite an advantage if she could use [Boost] though.

The first match. Rue and Rengetsu-san step forward to the center of the stage. There's too much of a height difference. Rengetsu-san who is obviously over 180cm is against Rue who's not even 145cm. It looks just like an adult vs. a child..... Will no one criticize Rengetsu-san even if he wins, I wonder?

With a referee's signal, the match started. Rue takes a stance with her twin swords, and Rengetsu-san prepares his pole. Rengetsu-san's pole is made of metal and although it is covered in silver color, the both ends are gold-colored. Are those Mithril and Orichalcum? He is easily handling it. He would have a tremendous herculean strength though if ever those were iron or gold.

Rue moves. In response to that, Rengetsu-san presses his pole. Did she read it? She wards off that pole downwards with her right sword and tries jumping toward his bosom using that momentum. But Rengetsu-san thrusts his lowered

pole into the stage and agilely does a vault jump over Rue.

Mmmm, I guess Rengetsu-san is really one step higher. He could perfectly see through that attack.

"Will Rue-san be all right.....?"

"What are you saying? This kid won't end it with just that, look"

Rue holds her twin swords with a back grip and heads towards Rengetsu-san once more. She repeatedly sends out the waves of surging attacks with her right and left swords. She continuously attacks while moving lightly at the same time. Those movements.....

"Hee~ That movements are that of a melee fighter ~right. Did Elsie teach those to her?"

As expected of Moroha-nee-san. Did she see through it? Those movements definitely resemble Elsie's footwork. It seems that Rue asked Elsie to teach her how to fight as well.

"Damn"

Rengetsu-san doesn't allow her to reach his bosom somehow or another and endures it with his pole. But in terms of the spent labor, Rue is superior. Before long, after having been cornered, he picks up his pole and sweeps it sideways while taking back a few steps thus creating distance.

Rue pursued him without letting him get away. However, Rengetsu-san went far from merely running away. He dashed forward and threw the pole at Rue's feet. He then drove the palm of his hand into her bosom when she lost her balance.

"Uguu...!"

Rue recovers her posture while rolling and takes a distance from Rengetsu-san for an instant. That one just now will hurt for sure.

You bastard! Hey, Rengetsu! What the heck do you think you are doing to our house's princess? I will curse you, you damn baldy..... My thoughts went wild there for a moment.

Not good, not good. This is a match after all. Calm down Touya, calm down.

You will get a little bit of revenge later so let this one slip for now.

This time, Rengetsu unleashes a continuous barrage of thrusts with his pole while cornering Rue. Barely avoiding the incoming pole and letting it come through, Rue drops her left sword and grasps the pole under her left armpit effectively stopping its movement. In the instant when Rue tries to attack from here on out, Rengetsu-san lets go of his pole.

"Eh? Waaa!?"

"Haaaaaaa !"

Rue loses her balance due to her opponent letting go of his weapon. Having thrown it away, Rengetsu-san extends his palm all the while yelling like some time ago. At that instant, Rue was blown backward as if something was pressing onto her.

Is that attack the same [Hakkei] which Sonia-san uses? I see. I suppose it shouldn't be strange that he is able to use that since they are comrades.

The blown off Rue rotated in the air and landed magnificently without a large impact. [Out-of-bound], that is.

"Winner, Rengetsu!"

The referee announces the winner. Immediately, a thunderous applause and cheers roared from the venue.

Rue lost by an out-of-bounds defeat. The place where she was blown off was bad. And yet, if it was approximately a meter closer to center, she might have managed to somehow return to the fight.

"Rue.....has lost in the end"

"Something like this can happen since it's a match. Even Rue understands that"

While patting Suu's head who was sulking in disappointment, I gazed at Rue who had returned to the stage to collect her swords and to shake hands with Rengetsu-san. I felt from her face that she was disappointed and that she would have liked to continue. You have done well.

"Now, since it came to this, this is the where I want to win the next one but....."

I look at Elsie and Sonia-san who are advancing to the top of the stage.

Both are fellow melee fighters and both have hardened their fists while chiming their gauntlets.

They took stances opposite of each other and looked straight at their opponents. The referee slowly raises his right hand, looks at the two of them, and swings it down in one go.

"Begin!"

Bakitsuuuuuuuuuuuu!!

Both charged towards each other with their full power simultaneously. Their fists ventured toward the other's face, sinking each of their fists into the other. It's a beautiful cross counter..... Cross counter? In what way!?

Waaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaait!! It is way too sudden! Furthermore, why are both of them grinning while they have hit each other's faces!?

[You are not bad]

[Same to you]

Come on! Are the both of you juvenile leaders standing up against each other at the riverbank at sunset?!

They take distance once again and start to exchange fists again. Elsie unleashes a right straight, and Sonia-san takes that with her gauntlet. Conversely, Sonia-san sends out her left hook out, and similarly, Elsie flicks it with her gauntlet.

In any case, the sound is brutal.

Gotsu! Gan! Gaintsu! Gakyatsu! The sounds of metal bumping against each other echoed above the stage. It is really-really scary!

It's even scarier since both of them are laughing. Yes, they are laughing while hitting each other. It's scary ~you know. It's really terrifying ~you know.

Then everyone, I will see you next time. Good bye, good bye, good bye.

.....It is like I got possessed.

Chapter 178: The Boxing Match and a Nullified Poison

The sounds of clashing metal are echoing repeatedly across the stage. Hit, defend, hit, defend, hit, defend, hit.....

It looks just like there is a rule to alternatively hit each other. Their speed was gradually becoming increasing, and before long, it became a barrage in return for another barrage.

"Yaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaa~!!"

"Haaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaa~!!"

A grand sound of clashing metal was made as both of their fists slammed against each other when they have unleashed a right straight with all their might towards each other.

Both of them stood still like that for an instant, mutually grinning and laughing at each other. Like I said, stop riding on that flow.

Suddenly, both of them simultaneously jumped back, rushed in again, and unleashed upper kicks at each other. The metallic clank of their leg protectors 《Greaves》 roared, and then again the sound of gauntlets' rally echoed again.

"Yaaaaaa~!!"

Along with her shrieking yell, Elise made a rotating kick which Sonia-san tried defending against, but she couldn't kill its momentum and was made to retreat a few steps. Then Elsie took a step forward to do a finishing blow, but Sonia-san quickly rotated her body and attacked with her heavy tail as a whip.

Without being able to avoid the blow of the thick tail that hit her from the side, Elsie reversely ended up retreating backward as she absorbed the heavy impact.

Seeing that, Sonia-san chased after her and tried to land a dropkick, but Elsie defended by crossing both of her arms. Sonia-san then immediately kicked her arms, rotated once, and took a distance from Elsie.

Switching between offensive and defensive, the white heated battle continued, the venue was also heating up.

"Moroha-chan, How do you see this match will end ~noyo?"

"Who knows. If it was a sword match, I might be able to say something, but when it comes to [Fists], I am not sure ~ne. Well, I feel that in terms of speed Elsie is superior, and Sonia-san has the advantage in terms of power, but it is not the gap between them is that big. However, Sonia also has a hidden card to play ~nee"

That [Hakkei], you mean? It seems that a single moment is necessary for her to use it, so Elsie has to make sure not to give her any gap.

At the same time, Elsie cannot even use her [Boost]. Just like Yae, Elsie also watched martial arts' videos on my smartphone, and so she incorporated various techniques from them but that's not all.

Is it because their stamina got exhausted on the stage? The movement of the two was getting a bit dull. Even so, they continued to exchange fist attacks without stopping their hands.

Elsie's sweep was approaching Sonia-san, and though she looked like she was about to fall backward, she somehow defended with her big tail and managed to regain her balance. That tail is amazing. Does it keep her balance like she is a dinosaur?

Sonia-san then attacks Elsie with that tail. Without avoiding that swing, Elsie resolved herself to receive damage and firmly stopped the blow. She then grasped it by both hands without letting it go and threw Sonia-san with all of her might over her shoulder.

(TLC: Seoinage – A judo “over shoulder throw”)

"daaaaaaaa~!!"

"Guuuuu...!!"

Towards Sonia-san who was thrown into the stage, Elsie swings her fist down to give the final blow. However, Sonia-san avoided it by rolling sideways, began to stand up with a hop, and extended her palm from a half-rising posture. This is bad!

"Haaa!!"

A loud thud reverberated and Elsie was blown off. Rolling all over through the

stage, she managed to somehow stop before falling outside the bounds.

Dangerous! A little more and it would have become the same as with Rue.

As expected, that is nasty. It is definitely an invisible range attack. Though she might not received the attack, I think she got quite the damage from being blown off like that.

In fact, Elsie is down on her knees and seems to be in a considerable pain. Not missing this chance, Sonia-san begins her attack. Having stood up, Elsie intercepted her, but is the previous attack still showing its results? She is being on the defensive. With with stage boundary being behind her, she will fall from it if it goes like this.

"Haaaaaaaaaaaaa~!!"

Sonia-san launches her right fist, and Elsie catches it firmly with her left hand. Disregarding her right hand, Sonia-san then unleashes her left hand, but it is grabbed by Elsie's right hand too. "Then how about a kick", Sonia-san tries to raise her leg and in that moment Elsie starts throwing her towards the back.

All the while putting her leg on Sonia-san's abdomen, Elsie throws her with her full strength.

It looks quite irregular, but is that an overhead throw?

Though Elsie's neck was out of the stage boundary since earlier, she was safe yet as the rules didn't state that you would lose unless you fall down from the stage.

"Sh.....!"

With how things are going, she is going to be thrown out of the boundary. Sonia-san spins her body in the air, breaks free from Elsie's grip while greatly swinging her tail, and leans her center of gravity towards the stage.

Sonia-san barely managed to land at the end of the stage, but Elsie went around and cut in front of her before she noticed anything.

"Yaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaa!!"

With a yell, Elsie unleashes her right straight. Whether it be by reflex, Sonia-san defended against it with her gauntlet. I guess it was probably difficult for

her to avoid it while in that posture.

As a result, Sonia-was was thrown out into the air and then landed on the ground. Thus deciding the match.

"The winner, Elsie Shiluesuka!"

The referee's voice echoes loudly, and the venue gets noisy all at once. Cheers and thunderous applause are being sent to the two.

"She won! Elsie has won ~ja!"

Suu voice raised in high spirit. Though honestly speaking, it feels like a draw because of all the injuries. Neither managed to K.O. the other. Well, even if they were in a real fight and were not being tied by the rules, I believe Elsie would have won.

Elsie shakes hands with Sonia-san who has come back to the stage and we applaud as well.

It is now one defeat and one win. We will advance to the finals if the two among Yae, Hilda and Pam will win.

I thought the reason we might lose would be due to Pam, but that was nothing more than a misplaced fear. She participated in the third match and managed to finish it in a mere three minutes. With earth-shattering vigor and power, she displayed a hurricane of surging attacks, her opponent was knocked outside the boundaries.

Yae came out in the next match and easily achieved victory once again. The Rauri tribe who got three victories promptly overtook the Lulush tribe and advanced forward to the finals.

"Have we managed it somehow?"

If I were to say something about this match, I feel relief down in my chest since the Lulush tribe was more formidable as an enemy than the remaining two tribes against which we may appear in the finals.

I express my appreciation to everyone who came out from the Deity Tree area and casted a recovery magic and [Refresh] on them just to be on the safe side. I especially paid attention to Elsie and Rue.

Later, I casted [Slip] on Rengetsu-san, about whom I didn't forget, thus causing him to magnificently fall down. While he was talking with others from the Lulush tribe Rengetsu-san magnificently fell and banged with the back of his head on the ground. He stood up without understanding what had happened and confirmed the soles of his feet. There was no damage to him because he was standing on the bare soil.

"What do you think you are doing.....?"

"But you know~ Seeing how he hit Rue, I kinda got angry"

"I was pretty beaten too though"

"With you guys I couldn't get angry. You looked like you were in some youth drama"

Elsie sulks while puffing her cheeks. Well, one will usually draw back when two young girls laugh while exchanging blows. I guess that should her opponent be a man, I would undoubtedly make him full of holes.

"In any case, one more win and we are done. Do your best. Take this as well"

I hand small vials that have pills that look like lemon soda to the girls. It is an antidote which Flora made before. Even if poison enters the body, it will immediately be purified with this.

"About the scattered poison on the stage, be sure to wear masks before your turns come up and then hold it in your mouths when your matches begin. If you take it, the poison won't have any effect even if you receive an attack from those claws. The scattered poison can be disregarded as well. While you take it, it will be effective for approximately 10 minutes, so everyone should take three pills in advance"

After girls received the pills, they returned back to the Deity Tree area.

Then, as we tried to return back to our seats in the audience, a big commotion could be heard from the venue.

It isn't the usual commotion. When we came back to the Rauri tribe's place, Rivet tribe had already won three times and was declared as a winner. Oi-oi, no matter what you look at it, isn't it too fast? What happened?

"The Lemuna tribe started to attack the moment match started, but then they

suddenly fell down. Apparently, it seems the Rivet tribe used something like a blowgun. In addition, the dart was extremely thin, it was difficult to glimpse with the naked eye. Even though they defended against the scattered poison with masks, I guess they couldn't do anything against poison entering directly inside their bodies. Moreover, the poison that they used was apparently a fast-acting poison. It may not be life-threatening, but if the medical treatment is delayed....."

As I looked down at the venue while hearing the commentary from Morohanee-san who saw the game, Elsie approached the people from the Lemuna tribe and handed them several antidotes from before. Un, they should be alright with that. Because they have a lot of pills, there is no problem giving out some.

"Even so, did you say blowgun? Indeed, unless it is used together with poison, it will be impractical as a weapon, considering its thickness ~right"

The sizes of throwing knife and darts would again be different. Moreover, a fast-acting poison. A certain-kill blow. Well, it didn't kill though. What on earth is that poison?

Though it may be a neurotoxin if it gives others the paralysis. Is it like blowfish tetrodotoxin if I remember it correctly? But that didn't have immediate effects. The numbness started from the hands and feet, it should be a poison that gradually takes effect.

Well, I didn't see any blowfish since I came to this world. There may be many original poisons of this world. When I thought of this, I wonder how amazing Flora is, since she could make a detoxify medicine.....

Though it can be cured in one shot If I use [Recovery]. In any case, you can't careless.

In the meantime, the last stage in the Deity Tree area gradually raised up.

On the stage which was a little more spacious than the ones before, the five representatives of both the Rauri tribe and the Rivet tribe are confronting each other in silence.

Yae and the girls have already covered their mouths with gas masks. Incidentally, the referee was wearing a mask as well. Looking at it in retrospect,

the appearance of everyone in masks was really strange scene.

The match started.

Yae is the vanguard. her opponent is the man with bent-back and claws from before. He had something like a short toothpick in the mask near his mouth. That is probably the muzzle of the blowgun.

It may be my imagination, but because he should be able to breathe even if he is wearing that mask, he is probably not holding the blowgun in his mouth and sending forth the dart with his breath.

Yae removes her mask and takes the pill. With this, the poison won't work on her. Though he stared at her dubious action, the bent-back man prepared his metal claw, and Yaw slowly drew her Katana from the sheath.

"Begin!"

Yae thrusts at the bent-back man as soon the match kicked off with full speed. I was able to see the bent-back man who panicked from her sudden action firing the dart from his mouth. However, Yae only protected her eyes with her left hand, dived into the bent-back man chest without minding the dart sticking to her hand and landed a single blow with her full power into the man's defenseless abdomen.

"Oguuuhaaaaaa!!"

While spitting out incomprehensible words, the bent-back man is blown off the stage while spinning.

"The winner, Kokonoe Yae!"

Instant kill. It was so quick that the venue fell silent for a moment, but it was wrapped in explosive cheer immediately after.

She was expecting that the blowgun would be coming. I see, did she hear it from the people of the Lemuna tribe awhile ago?

"No way.....Why didn't the poison work!?"

While letting out his thoughts, the spearhead with long hands and a frog-like face confronts Hilda. Did he still not believe the spectacle from a short while ago? it seems like he is shaking, but I don't care about such a thing.

At the same time game started, Hilda cut the distance at once while receiving the dart without trying to avoid it and sent the frog-man flying in a similar to Yae's manner.

"Guuarabaaaa~!!"

The poison doesn't work at all. It seems it gave a hopeless shock to the opponents. While he was trembling very much, the third member stood still in front of Pam who prepared her ax.

Naturally, there is no way he would be a match for her. As expected, just by confirming that the poison dart isn't effective, he has no choice but to receive Pam's ax head on.

".....t!!"

Without being able to raise his voice anymore, the man from the Rivet tribe fainted and slowly crumbled down.

"Winner, Pam! Therefore, this time [Tribe of the tree king] is the Rauri tribe!!"

Straight wins with three people. It was too dull of a final match, but the applause holding no restraint and cheers poured down like a rain on the tribe which won [Pruning Ceremony].

Pam raised war cry (female yell?) on the stage, which was moreover followed by the victory screams coming out from the Rauri tribe.

Is it over? At any rate, all's well that ends well.

When I thought so, I felt some kind of coarse sign.

"What is it?"

Zuzuzuzu.....Deep rumbling of the ground echoes, every tree beside the one in Deity Tree area start to wither and leaves start to flutter down. What the hell is that!?

"Kukuuu..... The power of the spirit, we will be taking it....."

One of the Rivet tribe muttered, and I perfectly caught it on my magic monitor.

Suddenly a loud thud and a shock echoed from the ground. Not just one,

there are a lot of severe earthquakes shaking the earth. Countless dead leaves fell down from the dead trees.

"W-what is that!?"

When I turned my eyes towards the voice of someone screaming, there were huge giant trees, and I could see the figure of several of them heading towards here. It doesn't look like everything is yet to end.

Chapter 179: The Wood Golem, and the Fragarach

"Wood Golems..... But they are way too big. Have they changed into Behemoths? There are so many of them....."

Several of what can be called 20-meter tall golems with a body fully covered with trees crush and mow down the surrounding trees while getting here. Their shape isn't that different from a mithril golem, but these wood golems are naturally bigger than those.

One, two, three..... There are ten golems or more. Might it be that the withered trees from a while ago were absorbed by these golems as nourishment?

The foremost golem tried stepping inside the Deity Tree region, but it was blocked by a green defensive wall, halting its advance.

A sphere about the size of a baseball emitting a green phosphorescence appeared in front of my eyes.

[Touya-sama!]

"Spirit of the great tree?"

[Yes. Currently, most of my power is being turned towards the defensive wall, so please excuse such appearance! Can I please request that Touya-sama and your comrades somehow evacuate all the tribes from here with your power? The target of that thing is most likely me..... I think it wants to capture the deity tree. They most likely trying to bring forth a wood golem which absorbed power of the spirit]

If for example, a golem absorbed the Deity Tree where the spirit dwells, it will likely be able to manipulate the spirit's power? It seems both these wood golems and the withered trees were prepared from the start.

I think I can dare to say that the masterminds are without a doubt the Rivet tribe. If they managed to win this [Pruning Ceremony], they would directly

scatter poison or anything similar on the Deity Tree, and assimilate it with a golem when the deity tree that has been weakened. Or perhaps they planned to change the Deity Tree itself into a golem. Any of that would be before they would announce a new rule at the ceremony.

However, the Rauri tribe has snatched victory from them. Did they then force this strategy which led to the current situation? These fellows are bad at giving up. Or rather, they are dumb.

..... this is the explanation of Moroha-nee-san who is right next to me. Is that true?

Really? Ah, was the Rivet tribe I saw last night preparing for that? I should have crushed them at that time.

Using [Fly], I leap to the girls on the stage and capture two people from the Rivet tribe who didn't appear in the game. Naturally, I paralyzed them with stun bullets. Because the spirit's power is directed towards the defensive wall, the magic will show its effect normally even here.

"Answer me. What is that?"

".....They are wood golems we have brought when they were still seeds. They were improved so that they would become Behemoths by soaking on the life force of the surrounding trees"

"Did you say "improve"?"

"By mixing various poisons, it took a long time to transform them. Furthermore, they are able to absorb the Deity Tree as well. It will also be able to manipulate the power of the spirit. With that power, our Rivet tribe will be the ruler of this Great Forest Sea.....Kukuuu....."

Haa. Isn't it exactly as Moroha-Neesan have said? However, don't think your plan will go that smoothly!. The reason for your defeat is because we are here.

"Gate"

The transition formation was formed in the sky and a [Black Knight 《Night Baron》] made its appearance. The Black Knight, who fell from a height of about a meter, makes very heavy impact different from the thuds made by wood

golems and lands in the Deity Tree area. It's carrying a sword on its hand and the new equipment [Fragarach] on its back.

"W-w-what is that!?"

"It's a perfect time to test this new weapon. I will gladly shatter that golem that represents the pride of you guys"

After glancing at a man from the Rivet tribe who popped his eye in surprise, I start to walk towards the summoned Frame Gear [Black Knight], but Yumina and Lindsey came up to me from the audience seats.

"Touya-san, can you please let either of us eliminate those things?"

"Eh? Do you mean you want to ride the [Black Knight]?"

"Yes, the reason is that we weren't able to do anything both during the Yuuron incident and for the matches this time"

Now that you mention it, it might be so. Magic wasn't useful during that incident in Yuuron and it was prohibited this time as well. Then that means...

Although we will undoubtedly fight against the Fureizu, having [Fragarach] here makes it possible for Yumina and Lindsey to defeat the Fureizu with a long distance attacks by using their magic power. Did they do any particular training in advance?

"Sure. Well, I will also support you, but please be careful"

I open [Gate] and summon another [Black Knight]. This one is painted in blue color so it is the [Blue Knight] so to speak. It also holds a mace in its hand. This one has been adjusted for the use of our Vice-Commander Norun-san, but there shouldn't be any problem if they use it.

Yumina boards the [Black Knight], Lindsey boards the [Blue Knight]. After quickly starting up them, they set it up so that their magic can be used by their respective frame gears.

[...Magic power tuning. First slot released]

[Likewise, the first slot released. Building up [Fragarach]. Tuning Completed. No abnormalities]

[...There are no abnormalities here as well]

I take out a receiver from [Storage] and exchange communications with the

two. There seem to be no problems.

[Then Yumina will handle the enemies to the right side while Lindsey will handle the ones to the left. Listen, when it seems that your magic power will run out, draw some magic from your rings with [Transfer]]

[I understood]

[Roger ~desu]

The Black Knight and the Blue Knight start to run, and with a weapon held in their hands, they turn them towards their respective wood golems that are trying to destroy the spirit's defensive wall.

[Oh, thunder, drill through, a hundred lances, Lighting Javelin]

[Oh, Ice, pierce through, sharp thorns, Ice Needle]

A white lighting came out from the tip of Black Knight's sword, and a countless number of ice shards came from the Blue Knight's mace. They then exploded at their respective wood golems.

I can understand Yumina's wind attribute, but for Lindsey to not use her favorite fire magic, she really is that vigilant for fire not to spread. Although thunder is also dangerous, that magic doesn't ignite fire, unlike a real lightning.

With two fallen golems as a start, both of them rushed out from the Deity Tree area when the defensive wall was released a short time later.

[Please test [Fragarach] for the meantime. Do not overstrain yourselves]

The two people headed towards the wood golems at the areas they are responsible for and confront several of them. Yumina moved first.

[[Fragarach], Launch!]



On the back of Black Knight, four crystal swords installed in X shape simultaneously start floating in the air and deploy in front of the Black Knight.

[Gooooooooooooo!]

Along with Yumina's shout, the crystal swords one by one dashed with the speed of a supersonic jet while breaking the sound barrier onto the wood golem and tear it apart. It's a blade that can even cut a hard Fureizu so something like a wood golem is not even an enemy.

The four Fragarach magnificently tear up the core inside the wood golem and return to the Black Knight. The Fragarach then completely surrounds the Frame Gear similar to satellite orbits in order to protect the Black Knight. I guess, they are a defensive system in reality since they are originally derived from the functions of the satellite orb.

[Umm, is it after all difficult to target and destroy four separate targets?]
[That's right. I don't think it is impossible but, is it because the sensation can't catch up with it? I believe it will depend on a person's experience]

Like I thought, I guess. Rosetta has also said that separate and independent rhythm and tempo are important. It seems close to the sense of playing the music instruments. Oh well, it looks similar. It is like a playing piano while moving your right and left hand with different motions.

By the way, I could separately manipulate the four of them quite easily and comfortably. I have my parents to thank for making me take piano lessons during my childhood. I didn't think it would be useful for this though.

Come to think of it, I have never seen a piano since I came to this world. It may be a good idea to create one for the practicing of [Fragarach]. I would love to play it after a long time.

[[Fragarach], Fire]

This time, Lindsey's Fragarach tears up a wood golems and two among the four crystal swords are attacking different wood golems.

Lindsey somehow seems to be able to attack two targets separately. When comparing to moving four at once to attack the same enemy, however, it seems she lacks accuracy. Does this also depend on practice?

"Impossible.....Why is that..... ! "

A man from the Rivet tribe has a face wrapped in shock as the figures of their proud golems are being torn into pieces one by one.

Oops, I also have to capture the companions of this fellow. I capture all members of the Rivet tribe with map search and make them unable to move with [Paralysis]. It was easy to search because they have a figure that's easy to understand.

In the meantime, the two had defeated most of the golems. But damn. Those golems would have some value if they were made from mithril orichalcum. Even though selective breeding was performed, wood is still wood after all. There's not enough value for them as material, is it? I guess they would have value as a plain wood though.

[With this, it is done]

After Lindsey kills the last one, all the golems were silenced. After seeing that, all the tribes in the Deity Tree area cheer, applaud and shout victorious war cries. Of course, with the exception of the Rivet tribe.

However, the surrounding trees have suffered a tremendous damage. From that size, I can say they were trees with a considerable age.

The sphere-like spirit comes over here. I wonder, did she focus all of her energy on the defensive wall and can't return to the shape of a human yet?

[Thank you very much, Touya-sama. What reward can I give as my gratitude.....?]

"No, I am actually sorry for destroying the trees around here. I am guessing whether I could handle it better"

[Ah, don't mind it. I will concentrate my energy later, and restore them to their original form]

Can you do something like that? Should I say "as expected" from the spirit of the tree?

The spirit zoomed quickly to where the [Referee tribe] was and flew to the spokesman from Jaja tribe.

Before long, someone who looks like the chief of [Referee tribe] raises his voice.

"The fools have schemed to make the Sacred Deity Tree their own, and their ambitions were crushed here! Messengers from Brunhild, a country far away

from here, have protected our Deity Tree! We, the tribes of the Great Forest Sea, offer them our greatest gratitude and admiration! May the divine protection of the spirit be with them !"

[May the divine protection of the spirit be with them!!]

I sent back the two Frame Gears under the cheers and applause that had broken out. With us being the Rauri tribe's helpers to the last, it seems that both Yumina and Lindsey have been recognized as Brunhild representatives. Well, that's fine. They are the ones who have actually beaten the wood golems.

Eventually, the people from Jaja tribe have captured and dragged away the people from the Rivet tribe. I have also asked them to capture other people of the Rivet tribe inside the forest since they should have fallen there as well.

Then once again, the Rauri tribe is declared as the [Tribe of the King], and a new rule of making [Pruning Ceremony] separated by gender was declared.

Though this rule stirred the other tribes, this was accepted as a new law in the Great Forest Sea since there was no opposition from the Great Deity tree.

It isn't a bad development when I am carefully thinking about that rule. It also seems that even the other tribes have realized the situation. It's similar to having another victory quota, and this will benefit all tribes. Though nothing changes for the Balum tribe since they don't have any women.

However, it seems they have accepted it because they have said that "It's not a bad thing since the Rauri tribe that is an eyesore will disappear".

Thus the [Pruning Ceremony], which included some turbulence, ended with the victory of the Rauri tribe.

Arc 22: If Winter comes, can Spring be far behind?

Chapter 180: The Winter Comes and A Songstress

"Uuu, cooold. Was it always this cold?"

Although we were away for only three days, Brunhild seems to have fully rushed into winter. It is hard to get up in the mornings.

The Great Forest Sea is to the south from here, but it isn't cold there even in winter. I don't know whether I have grown accustomed its temperature or it just suddenly got cold so suddenly. During today's morning, I got quite chilled.

This world is unusual. Something called seasons are distinctly extreme in countries that have it and those that have not. Moreover, It seems like it has nothing to do with country's latitude or longitude when viewing from map's point of view. There also seems to be differences when it comes to east and west. Don't tell me this world isn't a sphere like the Earth..... Or that something like giant elephant or serpent is underneath the earth.

It looks like the power of spirits is related to this, but I don't know the details. Does this phenomenon have any relation to natural properties of magic power or magic origins? A country with four seasons can be next to a country with extreme cold, so isn't it useless to think about this matter?

Is it my luck? For what it's worth, Brunhild has four seasons. I might say that it has the same friendly environment as my hometown. Though when comparing it to Japan, its spring is long and autumn is short.

"I really want an air-conditioner ~though"

To tell you the truth, I think I can make it using [Program]. However, it's not like I can't endure the cold and there's also a fireplace. My dead grandfather also used to say [Some inconveniences are the source of energy]. Let's stop this line of thought. At least a hot bottle of water should be fine, right?

The [Pruning Ceremony] is over too, and as promised, Pam has given up on having a child with me. Though she had some strange expression. I would like for her to show her skills as the Rauri tribe, no, as the leader of [Tribe of the tree king] at the Great Forest Sea.

Because Brunhild was recognized as a friendly country that rescued the tribes of the Great Forest Sea, they would seem to help if ever anything happens. They would lend their strength without reservation.

I don't know what happened later on with the Rivet Tribe that had planned to rule the Great Forest Sea. Pam only told me that [They have received the judgment of the Great Forest Sea]. I stopped poking my head in that matter since I felt it's better that I don't hear anything about it.

When I went out to the cold balcony, I could see someone was already practicing at the training grounds. I can see them well in the morning mist.

When I extended my vision with [Long Sense], Moroha-nee-san was competing with someone. Her opponent is..... Rue, isn't she?

"So early in the morning....."

It is because of her loss, right? She might be frustrated because she was defeated by Rengetsu-san. She made a face as if it was nothing, but all of my fiances hate to lose in general, I guess.

That reminds me, everyone in the castle was surprised when I had brought Moroha-nee-san back home with me. Of course they would be. I have never said a word about having another older sister.

When Kousaka-san asked me [How many more brothers and sisters you have?], I answered [Who knows.....]. I wonder whether he misunderstood me, he looked at me with semi-warm eyes which were saying [that's the lineage....]. It seems the [Mochizuki lineage are womanizers] label had been stuck. For once, they are not older sisters from different mothers, okay!? In the first place, we are not really older sisters and younger brothers!

Of course what surprised them more was the fighting power of Moroha-nee-san. In order to show her ability, she did a Randori with the knight order's bunch, but Nee-san pretty much easily won even though it was a battle of 1 vs. 80. No one had even scratched her.

(TLC: randori – free-style practice match)

Moreover, she accurately pointed out the weaknesses of those 80 people and what they should also straighten conversely. What a high spec Sword God she

is.

"As expected of His Highness' Older Sister....."

While having those feelings, I asked Moroha-Neesan to be practice partner to the knight order's bunch when she has free time. It is likely that their level will unexpectedly increase several months later. Well, it is not a bad thing, and I am thankful for that.

"Good Morning~"

"Good Morning, Touya-san"

When I finished squirming into my clothes and arrived at the dining room, Yumina, Lindsey, Elsie, Yae, Hilda, and Karen-nee-san were already sitting in their seats. When I was feeling drowsy, the maid Rene brought me herbal tea for waking up.

Thank you. As I have expressed my thanks and stroke Rene's head, the door opened, and Rue and Moroha-san came inside.

Our household's breakfast has been decided to be at 7:00, but we made a rule that we don't have to eat all together. We try to take it together as much as possible if there's time. As such, everyone starts eating once it passes 7:00, and it seems everyone is here today. It is unusual that Karen-nee-san is here during breakfast because she is always sleeping.

Suu occasionally joins this lineup, but it seems she did not come today.

Suu's room in the residence of Duke Ortlinde and the room called [Transition Room] in this castle are connected by a dresser enchanted with [Gate]. Of course, no one else beside Suu can pass through it. It has also been made to record when she passes through it.

We are already engaged and she has been allowed to come and stay in this castle anytime, but I have told her to have meals at the other side as much as possible.

After all, I believe it's better for the parents and their children to have meals together. The Duke is probably lonely too.

When breakfast ends, each of us goes to their own work, training, or

whatever they usually do. Yae, Hilda, and Moroha-nee-san join the knights for training and domestic inspection. Yumina and Rue consult with Naito-Ossan regarding the city's development situation. Elsie and Lindsey are training and doing the reclamation for the crops which have been selectively developed. Finally, Karen-nee-san goes to her love consultation room. Each of them is operating as they please.

It's never the case for king's fiancées do those things, but everyone like what they are doing.

As for me, throughout this morning I will be meeting with people who are requesting audiences, and if there is none, then I am free. I briefly listen about domestic problems from Kousaka-san and separate them as things to handle immediately, things to handle after thinking for a bit, and things that don't need to be handled.

Kousaka-san tries to handle these issues using the abilities of citizens as much as possible even if those matters can be solved immediately if I handle them. If I do everything, this country will be completely depending on me. It's meaningless unless this country can deal with these issues by themselves during the times I might be caught with something troublesome.

Therefore, I'm receiving a treatment as if I'm a nuisance. Oh well, this is more comfortable though.

"I wonder how much colder will this winter get?"

"Let's see. I don't think it will become that cold this year. I believe that we are saved because we have the [Hot Carpet] that his Majesty had made"

The butler Lyme-san who brought me the black tea after the meal said that. There are many spacious rooms in the castle so it's not easy to warm them up. Therefore, the carpets enchanted with the fire attribute [Warming] had been spread in places like the audience room or the office.

I also gave Lyme-san a special suit enchanted with [Warming] as a present. It's a wonderful item that can regulate the temperature. That's because Lyme-san is the fastest one to wake up and to start moving in the cold hours. Since it looked like he wouldn't receive it if I handed the suit to him normally, I forcibly gifted the suit using Lyme-san's birthday was close back then as the reason.

I'll be troubled if our household's perfect butler becomes sick due to the cold.

Now then, I have free time since there are no audiences planned for today. No, I can't say I am completely free though. The reason is that I am putting the finishing touches on the Piano I started to work on since I came back from the Great Forest Sea.

The structure itself wasn't difficult (At any rate, this Piano is just a fake one, and I had reluctantly used [Program] on the places I didn't know the structure of), but adjusting the sound was troublesome. I had no choice but to scale the tone depending on the sound I heard from a piano app on my smartphone since I don't have a perfect pitch.

Also, I was excited and made a grand piano for some reason; therefore the keyboard has 88 keys. It might have been better if I outright made it into a 65 keyed studio upright piano.

I am a bit uneasy, but I finished tuning all the keys for now. I sit on a chair at once and press the keyboard. Do Re Mi Fa So La Si Do. I play them in order and go back with Do Si La So Fa Mi Re Do.

I wonder how many years it has been since I last played a piano ~. When I was a child, I couldn't switch to Fa with my thumb. How did I practice that again? And at the time when I pressed it, I couldn't hit Mi with my middle finger. My fingers were short unlike now.

The nostalgic sound of Do Re Mi Fa So La Si Do, Do Si La So Fa Mi Re Do, Do Re Mi Fa So La Si Do, Do Si La So Fa Mi Re Do Do..... I repeated them quite a lot.

And following the flow, I begin playing [The Flea Waltz] that is a famous tune everyone tries to play. I got excited and also played a version with a different arrangement. I also ended up playing the Jazz version too.

I heard an applause from somewhere after I finished playing. When I looked back, while being accompanied by Kougyoku, Sakura was applauding.

"Is that a musical instrument?"

"Yeah, I guess. It's called a [Piano]. It's a keyboard Instrument..... I guess it perhaps falls into the category of percussion or string instruments"

"I want to hear more. Some different tune"

And, even if you tell me that. Mmm, then, shall I go with an easy one? I don't know whether I can play it since it has been quite some time since I have last played it, but it is perfect for this season.

I begin playing with a light tempo. I guess this is standard during christmas season. Though I don't know if there's a December here or not.

"Jingle Bells"

I guess the clergyman in America who created that song more than 150 years ago has never imagined it would be played in a different world.

Sakura swayed her head a little to left and right following the rhythm. It seems that she likes it. Kougyoku also closes her eyes and listens attentively. It seems she got somewhat pleased and unconsciously started to hum the song.

She applauded again when the song finished playing. I am kinda feeling shy now.

"This song, teach it to me. Sakura also wants to sing it"

Sakura asked me with sparkling eyes. How unusual for this kid to say something like this even though she is a child who doesn't usually show many emotions.

This time, I properly sing the lyrics from the beginning while slowly playing the song in compliance with her request. Sakura hums as if she's chasing after that song. When I have said that I will sing this once again after playing it from start to finish, she replied [I already memorized]. That's was fast.

"If that's the case", – I started to play again with light tempo and Sakura began to sing the song accordingly. Oi Oi, what's that!?

She is unreasonably skilled. A clear, if not a transparent, voice echoes inside the room. Was this girl this good at this song? Having finished singing, Sakura smiled seemingly satisfied.



"Amazing.... Might Sakura perhaps have been a singer?"

"I am not really sure, but I might have liked to sing. Will you teach me more?"

It may trigger her memories to return, so I start rolling up songs that I can remember. I avoided the classics that don't have lyrics. I instead focused on Pop

songs, Popular songs, Enka, Nursery rhymes and others regardless of those being Western or Japanese songs.

To my surprise, Sakura remembered the lyrics of all of those songs just after hearing them once. It seems she has an excellent memory. It's ironic that a girl with amnesia has an outstanding memory.

However, this talent of hers should become a valuable weapon with which she will be able to keep living. Shall I also do a production for her as an idol? No, considering her character, she is the type who doesn't want to stand out much, I suppose.

To begin with, this Piano wasn't made for accompaniment. Well, even if I teach Yumina or the rest how to play Piano, I'm doubtful whether they will be able to manipulate mithril swords 《Fragarach》 freely with this.

Have the others also heard Sakura's beautiful voice and my accompaniment? Soon, before I noticed it, everyone in the castle gathered and listened to her singing.

A rain of applause pours down on us when the performance ends. Though Sakura looked down from being embarrassed, she floated a smile showing that's not so bad as she was being praised by Lindsey who was close to her.

After that, Sakura's mini recital continued for a while. As much as she is a reserved girl in some aspects, she cheerfully sang seemingly not that bothered by doing it in front of her acquaintances.

I continued being her accompaniment while thinking of letting her listen to songs that she may like from the music inside my smartphone which I should add there for her sake.